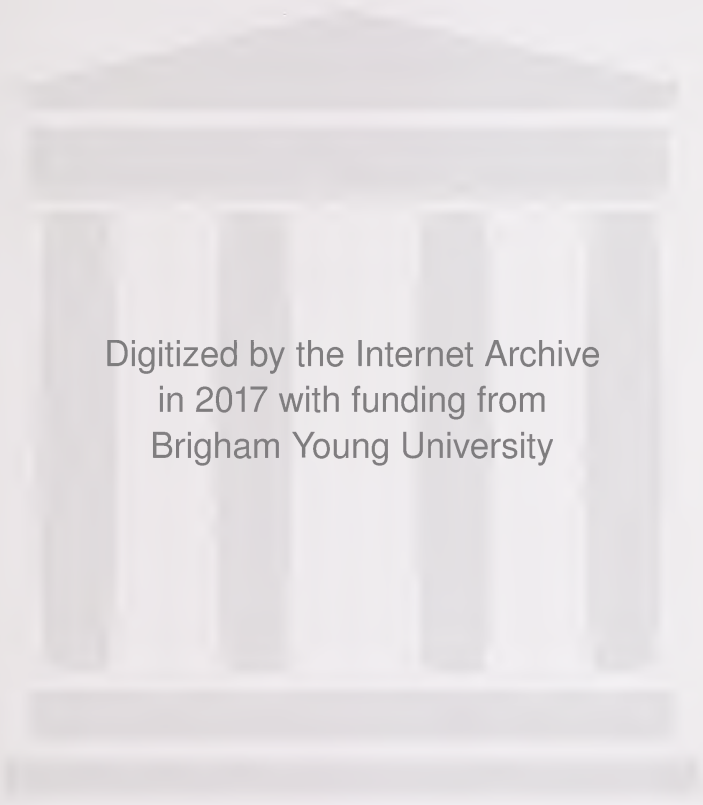


PICTURE BOOK OF EARLIER BUFFALO

FRANK H. SEVERANCE

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THE EARLIEST BUFFALO PICTURE KNOWN: VIEW OF FORT ERIE FROM BUFFALO CREEK, 1811.

DRAWN BY E. WALSH, 49TH (BTSH.) REGT. SIZE OF ORIGINAL, 21 BY 14 INCHES.

THE
PICTURE BOOK OF
EARLIER BUFFALO



Tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis.

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1912

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AS TO THIS BOOK

THIS volume is a picture-book of the Earlier Buffalo. It is not a history of Buffalo, or of any period or phase of it. Incidentally, a good many facts are given; but the primary purpose of the book is to preserve, in a convenient form, pictures of the earlier Buffalo.

Distinction should be made between "earlier Buffalo" and "early Buffalo." There are no true pictures of the early Buffalo—the little village that our friends the British and Indians wiped off the map in 1813. We know pretty well what must have been its general character. We can imagine how the log houses looked, seen down the stump-strewn vistas of roads cut through the woods. There was the open, grassy Terrace; the sand dunes along the shore; and the blue lake, admired from afar by approaching travelers. We have pretty good descriptions of these primitive conditions, written at the time; but neither the first settlers, nor the early visitors, made pictures of what they saw here. The earliest Buffalo picture known to the present compiler was published, in London, in 1811. We shall presently consider it.

This book, then, does not picture that first Buffalo. It relates, mostly, to the town that grew by natural evolution during the decades from 1820 to 1870 or thereabouts. Roughly speaking, our pictures are scattered through half a century. A few views which are included, of later date, are of notable buildings that have recently passed away.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

Pictures of some Buffalo buildings that have gone, and some facts about them; that is what this book is. Nor is any attempt made to contrast the old with the new, striking though such contrasts would often be. A few buildings still standing are included because they belong notably to the past in their age and associations.

The collection is neither complete nor altogether logical. Oftentimes it does not include this or that prominent building, because no picture could be found of it. But such as it is, it is by long odds the fullest collection ever made of views of the earlier Buffalo.

The critical reader is further reminded that most of these pictures are made from old drawings, daguerreotypes or photographs, often faded and yellowed by time. The art quality of many of our pictures is not high, but our reproductions, surprisingly good in many cases, will at least serve to make permanent what would otherwise, in many instances, soon be lost.

Until very recent years, it was not a usual thing to make pictures of buildings and street scenes. Buffalo was built up and torn down, or burned down, several times over, before the art of taking instantaneous photographs was perfected. It is easy to forget, in looking at photographs of street scenes, showing motion, that nothing of the sort was possible until about thirty years ago. If it had been, fifty years ago, what a different Civil War record, in a pictorial way, would we now cherish!

The very early Buffalo, with its log houses, its Indians, its things of the pioneer period, was, beyond question, picturesque; but a hundred years of constant betterment have not left it, particularly, a picturesque city. Today, ever expanding, with increasing wealth and activity, it has a fair dowry of beauty. It is windswept and clean, for the

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

most part wholesome and livable; and offers little to the artist by way of picturesque nooks and queer corners, which are much better to look at in a picture, than to live in. Broad avenues and velvety lawns may not appeal to the artist soul, but they have substantial solace for plain people who love health and comfort more than they do surprises of vista or eccentricities of skyline.

Buffalo is fairly well content to grow, ever busier, better and more beautiful; but in doing this she ruthlessly destroys the old. The work of destruction, especially in Franklin street, and in Main street between Chippewa and Utica, is going on with uncommon vigor in this year of 1912. It is with a view to preserving some pictorial record of what has been, and is no more, that this picture-book of earlier Buffalo has been prepared.

It is fitting to acknowledge the help that has been received, from many sources, in bringing these pictures together; but to name all who have given assistance has become scarcely feasible, through the very multitude of contributing friends. It is only fair to say, that if this collection have any value or interest in the community to which it relates, it is due to the cordial coöperation of men and women who are of that community, and who represent, for the most part, families who for many years have shared in the development and up-building of their city. To one and all of these friends, the Buffalo Historical Society makes grateful acknowledgment.

A number of our pictures are from old negatives by Mr. Horace L. Bliss, who photographed buildings and street views as early as 1860, at a time when such work was novel and seldom done. But for him, many glimpses which we now have of the earlier Buffalo would have been lost. Other useful pictures are stereoscopic views of Buffalo made in

the early '70's by Charles L. Pond. Somewhat later still other views were made by Wm. J. Baker and by A. W. Simon, published by Ulbrich & Kingsley.

The editor of this collection has striven for brevity in his notes; sometimes he has been brief of necessity. But while trying to record facts bearing on the pictures, he has also endeavored not to repeat at length what is elsewhere printed, in books easy of access.

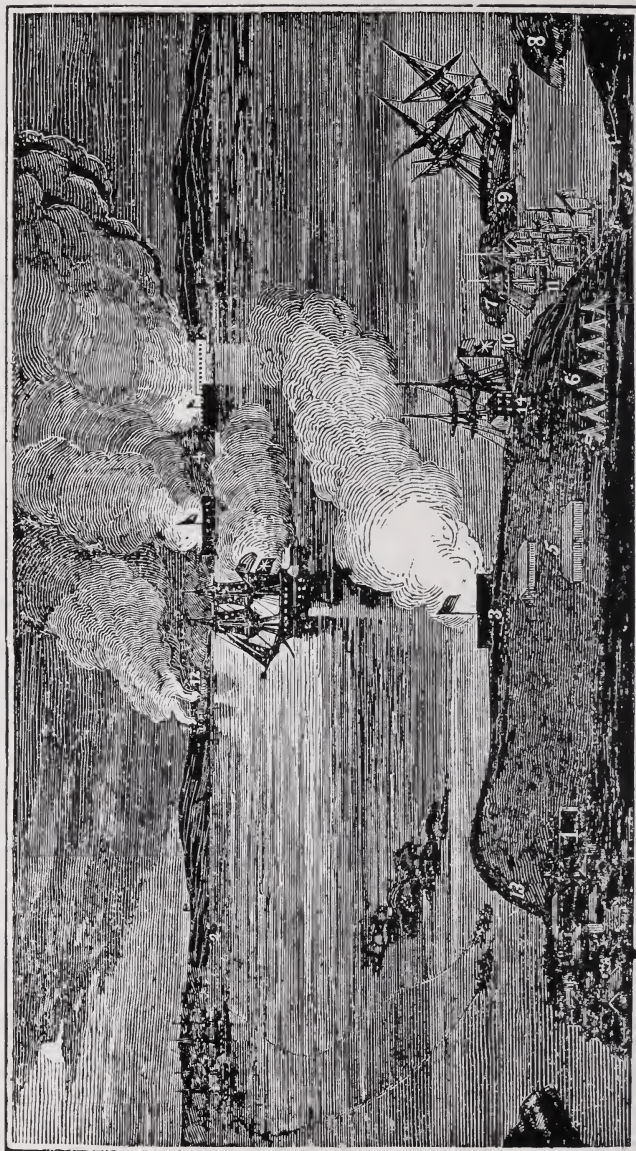
Volume XVII of the Society's Publications is now in press. It will contain among other things, a full account of the exercises at the semi-centennial of the Society, with all the addresses delivered on that occasion; Mr. Frank M. Hollister's address at the unveiling of a tablet in memory of Millard Fillmore; Mr. John G. Milburn's address in unveiling a tablet in memory of Grover Cleveland; the proceedings of Letchworth Memorial evening, with Mr. J. N. Larned's tribute to the memory of Hon. William P. Letchworth; Mr. Henry W. Sprague's appreciation of the life and work of Lars G. Sellstedt, delivered on the Sellstedt Memorial evening; and much other matter relating to the history of Buffalo and the activities of this Society.

SOME OLD HARBOR VIEWS

The earliest picture known, appertaining to Buffalo, is a colored print, entitled "A view of the Lake and Fort Erie, from Buffalo Creek," drawn by E. Walsh of the 49th Regiment (British), engraved by John Bluck and published by R. Ackermann at his "Repository of Arts," 101 Strand, London, in January, 1811. In size, the original is 21 by 14 inches, and possesses no little merit, both in drawing and coloring. The artist, in civilian garb, sits on the bank about where, we should say, the Lackawanna freight sheds sit today, and sketches the scene before him. Across Buffalo creek an Indian family are busy about their wigwam. On the distant lake, a vessel appears, and several others ride at anchor under the guns of Fort Erie, the outlines of which are dimly seen on the distant shore. A substantial dwelling house is introduced on the right of the picture, but can not be identified with any known residence at that time and place. This picture is the frontispiece of this volume.

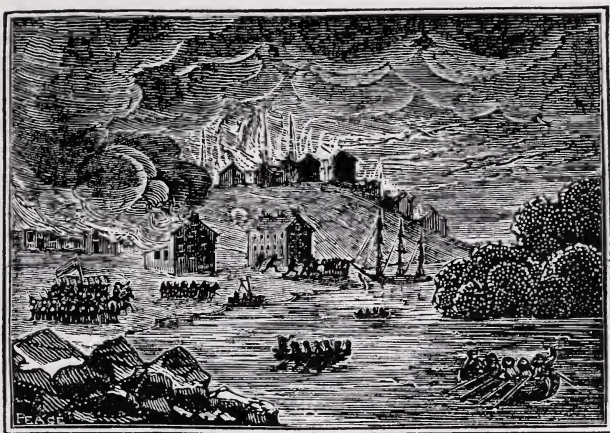
There are two very curious woodcuts of Buffalo during the War of 1812, neither of them being published until some years after the war, and neither of them, it is needless to say, having any great claim to accuracy. They are curios, and as such are here reproduced.

One of them purports to show the capture of the British brigs Detroit and Caledonia, by Lieut. J. D. Elliott, U. S. N., on the night of October 8, 1812. It is a crude woodcut, published in a pamphlet "Address of Com. Jesse D. Elliott,"



THE SECOND OLDEST VIEW OF BUFFALO.

PUBLISHED IN PHILADELPHIA, 1845, FROM AN ORIGINAL SKETCH BY LT. JESSE D. ELLIOTT, ACCOMPANYING HIS REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY ON THE CAPTURE OF THE DETROIT AND CALEDONIA, DATED BLACK ROCK, OCT. 9, 1812.



THE BURNING OF BUFFALO.
AS PICTURED IN TAYLOR'S "UNIVERSAL HISTORY," 1833.

etc., printed at Philadelphia in 1844. The key to the cut is as follows: No. 1, Buffalo; 2, Fort Erie; 3, Black Rock; 4, British batteries; 5, Sailors' barracks; 6, artillery cantonment; 7, Squaw Island; 8, Strawberry Island; 9, the Detroit, aground; 10, the Caledonia, ashore; 11, navy yard; 12, British artillery; 13, point of embarkation. The engraving is not to be viewed as an attempt at topographic accuracy, but as a bird's eye diagram, and probably the only one showing Buffalo at that period. The original sketch was made by Lt. Elliott, and sent by him to the Secretary of the Navy. It was a part of Elliott's report on the affair of the Detroit and Caledonia, dated Oct. 9, 1812.

The little woodcut, showing the burning of Buffalo, suggests the quaint pictures of the Primer or Shorter Catechism of long-gone days. It is one of a score or more of cuts that embellish "A universal History of the United States," etc., by C. B. Taylor, published in Buffalo by Ezra Strong in 1833. The scene is evidently the dreadful night



THE THIRD OLDEST VIEW OF BUFFALO.

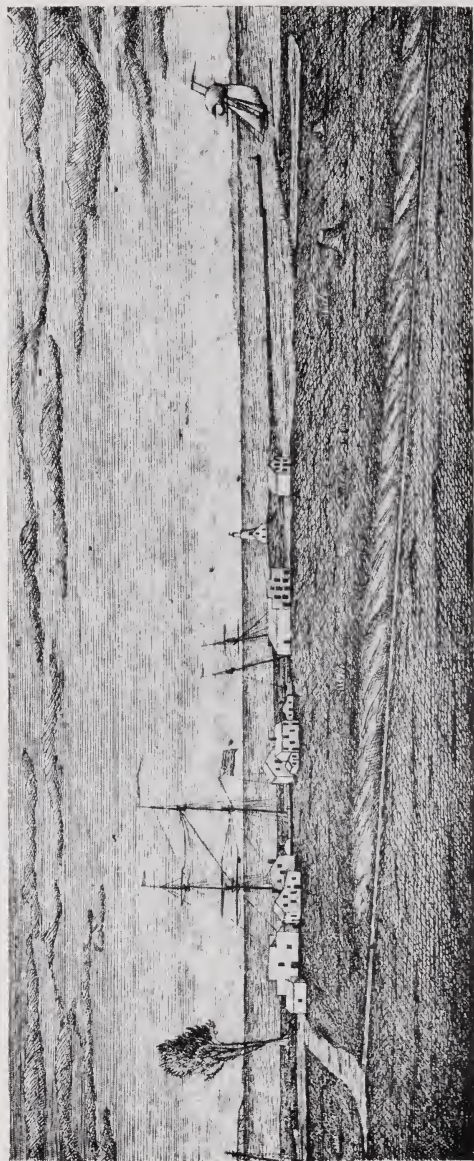
LANDING OF HARRISON'S TROOPS AT BUFFALO CREEK, OCTOBER, 1813. ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN THE PORT FOLIO, 1815.

of December 30, 1813. We leave to experts the task of explaining the details of the picture. The height of the hill on which the doomed town stood is no stranger than the word "Peace," in the lower left-hand corner. Presumably, it is the artist's signature.

The third oldest picture of Buffalo, so far as known, is also of the period of the War of 1812. It is an engraving of some artistic merit, published in a famous old periodical of Philadelphia, the *Port Folio*, in August, 1815. Like the earlier English print, it shows the mouth of Buffalo river, but from the elevated ground of the Terrace, where two men are watching with a spyglass, the landing of troops on the bank of the Little Buffalo, near its confluence with the larger stream. One wonders whose grounds those were, on the Terrace, so well fenced? Figures are seen about a camp-kettle on the flats, and numerous boats outside the mouth of the creek, indicate a considerable movement of troops. Accompanying text in the *Port Folio* says: "The prefixed engraving exhibits a correct view, taken on the spot, of the port of Buffaloe on Lake Erie, at the time of the landing of a part of General Harrison's troops, subsequently to the defeat and capture of General Proctor's army." This fixes the time of the picture as October 24, 1813, when Harrison landed 1500 troops at Buffalo, and marched them thence to Newark, now Niagara, Ont.

The next picture, ten years later in point of time, is Sheldon Ball's copperplate view of Buffalo harbor, published in his pamphlet history of Buffalo in 1825. It is a picture with a story. Mr. Ball's pamphlet says only this of it:

"The view of Buffalo Harbor in 1825 was engraved on copper by Sheldon Ball. It was taken from the Terrace, between Willink [Main] avenue and South Cayuga [Pearl]



SHELDON BALL'S VIEW OF BUFFALO HARBOR, 1825.
THE FIRST PICTURE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN ENGRAVED IN BUFFALO.

street. The foreground exhibits the confluence of the Canal with the waters of Little Buffalo, and its final termination with the Lake through the medium of the Buffalo Creek; the lighthouse, pier, mouth of the harbor, and shipping within; Lake Erie with Point Abino (in the Province of Upper Canada) on the right, distant eleven miles, and Sturgeon Point (on the U. S. shore) on the left, distant about fifteen miles."

In 1876 the Hon. Gideon J. Ball, then living at Erie, Pa., sent to Orsamus H. Marshall, for the archives of the Buffalo Historical Society, an account of how Sheldon Ball had made this picture of Buffalo, half a century before. The principal part of it is as follows:

"S. Ball was not an engraver—never claimed to be—but, with a pencil, he sketched well and cleverly. After the completion of his drawings, he corresponded with engravers in the city of New York, and to his surprise, found their charges so high, and the difficulties of distance so great, that he was disposed for a time to give up his hobby—for on his part it was a hobby.

"After reflection, he resolved to do the work himself. Copper was procured; the plates were hammered to firmness, and by infinite rubbing, their surfaces were finished so that they presented polished planes. S. Ball then set himself to work, and by persevering effort, succeeded in transferring to the copper the pictures he had drawn with his pencil.

"When the engravings were completed—it is amusing to remember with what innocence of purpose—the plates were carried to the Buffalo *Patriot* printing office: up stairs at the north-east corner of Vanstaphorst [Main] Avenue and Eagle street. The plates were duly put on the printing press, when earnest and repeated efforts were made to get impressions—but the pictures came not.

"Then it was learned that newspaper printing presses would not give impressions from engraved copper-plates. Here was a dilemma. How to overcome the difficulty was



A BUFFALO SCENE OF 1798.
DRAWING PUBLISHED ABOUT 1860, TO SHOW MIDDAGH'S HOUSE ON THE PENINSULA.

the next study. Books were consulted. They taught that such work could be done only on a copper-plate printing press, with large, *lignum-vitæ* rollers, an upper and lower one, etc., etc. Such rollers were not to be had in Buffalo; to procure them from abroad was out of the question. Mechanics who had a knowledge of timber were consulted; they agreed that buttonwood was the best substitute. Accordingly, a buttonwood-tree of suitable diameter was cut down, and two large rollers turned in a lathe, were soon provided, as also a bed-plate to run between them; in this manner a copper-plate printing press was fabricated. And on that press the picture and map in the pamphlet, 'Buffalo in 1825,' were printed. I will add that when the printing came to be done, newspaper ink was used, and it proved to be unfitted for the work—was unsatisfactory in every respect.

"Authorities were again consulted, when it was learned that there was an ink, known as copper-plate printers' ink, and the books furnished instructions how to make it. The proper ingredients were procured, ink made, and by its use the pictures came from the press of a better and darker color. This was book or picture-making under difficulties. The larger part of the edition was given away; a limited number were sold at twenty-five cents each. I think I am safe in saying that not five per cent. of the cost of the work was ever realized by S. Ball. On his part it was a hobby—a labor of love, and he gratified it."

Some of the papers of Henry Lovejoy, for many years a surveyor in Buffalo, are in the keeping of the Historical Society. In one of them Mr. Lovejoy identifies the buildings shown in Ball's etching:

"The view was taken from the Terrace, near the north entrance of the Market. The Terrace was then a high bank, with the green turf upon it unbroken. The foreground exhibits the Erie Canal, then in an unfinished state, from a point near Erie street to the Little Buffalo Creek, above the Commercial street bridge. At the left is seen



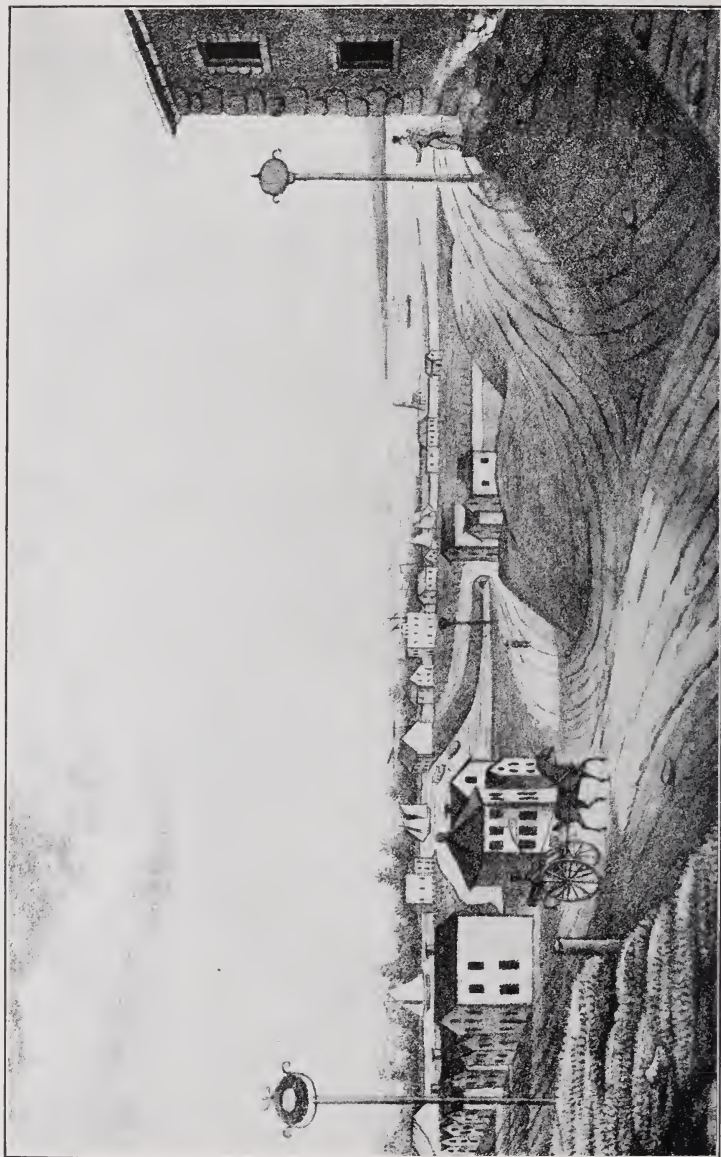
BUFFALO HARBOR IN 1825.
FROM THE NEW YORK CANAL "MEMOIR" OF THAT YEAR.

the point on which soon afterwards was erected the warehouse occupied by Joy & Webster. The small building at the extreme left stood in Prime street. The next is the old red warehouse occupied by Townsend & Coit, and below it are two buildings standing in or near the foot of Commercial street. Further down the harbor we come to a cluster of small buildings then standing on the Johnson & Wilkeson lot. Next (near the middle of the picture) stands the warehouse of Hiram Pratt, later used by Asa B. Meech. The next and last building, on the right, was a small warehouse used by Sheldon Thompson & Co." This was the Buffalo branch of a business that had its principal house at Black Rock. The site on Buffalo river was afterwards covered by one of General C. M. Reed's warehouses. Mr. Lovejoy continues: "Between the canal and buildings lies an open field embracing the southerly parts of Lots 1 and 2, the former owned by Louis Le Couteulx and the latter by Benjamin Ellicott. The stumps of two large sycamores are seen on the right. In the harbor, at the foot of Commercial street, lies the steam brig Superior, then the only one afloat on the Lakes. She was 340 tons burden. A solitary schooner lies at Pratt & Meech's dock. Another is entering the harbor.

"The old lighthouse is shown on the south bank of the creek, near the junction of the pier and seawall. Beyond is seen the Buffalo pier. At the end is a private light for the use of the steam brig. The lower pier, extending across the original bed of the creek and across the sand bank to the Lake, thus forming with the main pier a new channel which is the present entrance to the harbor, is also exhibited. In the distance are seen Point Abino and the Canada shore."

Such is the first Buffalo picture by a Buffalonian: more history than art in it.

When the Erie Canal was opened in 1825, there was published in New York a "Memoir," in celebration of the completion of the great work. It is a valuable volume, well



BUFFALO HARBOR FROM THE VILLAGE, 1825.
FROM THE CANAL "MEMOIR" OF THAT YEAR.

known to students of New York State history. Among the numerous crude lithographs which it contains are two of Buffalo, here reproduced: "Buffalo from the Lighthouse," and "Buffalo harbor from the Village." The former is interesting for the types of lake craft shown, and for the elevation which the principal part of the town appears to have above the harbor. While this drawing may have exaggerated it, it is certain that there was a marked rise to the natural level of the old Terrace. All the old pictures indicate a steep ascent to Main at present Exchange street. The other view shows a corner of what was probably the old Coffee House on the Terrace (site of the present Sidway building); the warehouses on the river are much as in Ball's engraving; the west side of Main below the Terrace shows more houses; but the distinctive feature of this picture, as of others of the period, is the reach of the Little Buffalo between the canal and the Big Buffalo. This was the heart of commercial Buffalo 88 years ago. The topography of that part of our city has changed many times.

In 1827-28 Captain Basil Hall of the Royal British Navy toured through the United States, and visited Buffalo and Niagara Falls. As he traveled he made sketches by the aid of a "camera lucida," a darkened box with a lens fitted to it, which threw the image of the thing to be drawn upon the drawing paper, and all the artist had to do was to limn the outlines as the sun and his lens set the copy. It was in July, 1827, that Captain Hall came to Buffalo. The Erie canal—or as it was more often styled in the early days, the Grand or Great Western canal—was newly opened, and its junction with Lake Erie was the greatest sight the village folk could show the visitor. Captain Hall sat him down on the Terrace, and with his camera lucida made a good



CAPTAIN BASIL HALL'S SKETCH OF BUFFALO HARBOR, 1827



VIEW OF BUFFALO ON OLD STAFFORDSHIRE CHINA.
SHOWING ERIE CANAL AT BUFFALO CREEK. COMPARE WITH BASIL HALL'S
SKETCH.

sketch of the junction of the canal with the Buffalo river and infant harbor of Buffalo. Although this was a good many years before photographs were made, the picture is practically photographic. It was afterwards engraved by W. H. Lizars and published at Edinburgh in 1830, in an atlas of views which accompanied Captain Hall's three-volume work on America.

It is interesting to compare with Hall's drawing the view of the Erie Canal at Buffalo which is found on some of the old Staffordshire plates and platters. Ralph Stevenson of the Cobridge potteries, Staffordshire, was responsible for



BUFFALO IN 1829.
FROM THE ORIGINAL WATER-COLOR DRAWING BY GEO. W. SMITH, OWNED BY THE BUFFALO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

many of the American views which ornament specimens of this valued old English ware, now become historic. Stevenson is not known to have visited America; and the striking similarity between the picture of Buffalo on the so-called "Canal" plate, and that portion of Hall's sketch showing the union of the canal and Buffalo Creek, suggests a common origin. The "Canal" plate was made about the time that Hall's book was published.

Two years after Captain Basil Hall made his drawing of the harbor, another artist, George W. Smith, appeared on the scene. Some one—was it Sidney Smith?—has said that Smith is no name. In America, at any rate, George W. (Washington, it must be) Smith is not particularly distinctive. No matter, distinction is none the less his, for in September, 1829, he rendered high service to the cause of history by making a water-color drawing of Buffalo and harbor as viewed "from the Exchange Buildings, omitting the coffee house on the Terrace." The original drawing is eleven by twenty-four inches in size. Just what its fortunes have been can not be recorded, except to this extent: About half a century ago Mr. Orsamus H. Marshall, on one of his visits to Paris in quest of historical material, found this old water-color drawing of his home city, and brought it back to Buffalo. It was probably made for Louis Le Couteulx, from whose family it was procured. When the Marshall residence on Main street was demolished in 1909 the old picture was found, intact and in good condition, in the garret, and was then presented to the Historical Society. The most interesting portion of it is engraved for this volume.

While no great claim can be made for it, as a work of art—indeed, some of the drawing is very bad—yet it is of high value for the evident accuracy with which the buildings



BUFFALO AS SEEN FROM THE LAKE IN 1829.

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ORIGINAL PAINTING OWNED BY THE BUFFALO HISTORICAL SOCIETY. PROBABLY BY GEO. W. SMITH,
WHOSE NAME IS SIGNED TO THE COMPANION PICTURE OF SAME DATE.

of that time were drawn. The foreground shows us Main street at Exchange, which in 1829 was Crow street. It became Exchange street in 1836. On the northeast corner is a vacant lot, which was Louis Le Couteulx's garden, and the substantial house adjoining was Mr. Le Couteulx's residence. Opposite, was the Mansion House, precursor of the present structure, three stories high on the Crow street side, four stories on Main street, for the principal thoroughfare originally dropped off sharply at this point, going towards the harbor. One of the first public works in Buffalo was the improvement of the street grade at this point. The sketch shows the continuation of Main street, over Little Buffalo Creek (which later became the Hamburg extension of the canal), pretty well lined with buildings down to its end on Buffalo river. Of equal, perhaps greater importance in the early years of the canal era, was the street at the right of Main, which corresponds to the present Commercial street. It crossed the Erie canal where Commercial street now crosses it; but otherwise the region has much changed. Many slips were dug, prior to 1850, connecting the canal and Buffalo river. Most of these have been filled, and the street lines have been changed more than once. Much that was old in this region disappeared when the Lackawanna Railroad smashed its way through in 1883.

The drawing shows the first lighthouse on the beach; the pier that Judge Wilkeson built; and not the least interesting object in the picture is the old Terrace pump, in front of the buildings which were put up from 1816 to 1820, some of which, it is said, endured until the erection on that site of Spaulding's Exchange, in 1845.

Another view, "Buffalo as seen from the Lake in 1829," is from a photograph owned by the Historical Society. The



BUFFALO, FROM LAKE ERIE, 1833.

PAINTED AND ENGRAVED BY W. J. BENNETT, FROM A SKETCH BY J. W. HILL. SIZE OF ORIGINAL (IN COLORS) 24 BY 16 INCHES.
 "TO E. JOHNSON, H. PRATT, S. WILKINSON [WILKESON], B. RATHBUN AND COL. ROBERT STEELE OF NEW YORK."

photograph was made from a water-color sketch, the whereabouts of which is not known. It was, however, probably drawn by the same George W. Smith who made the other view of Buffalo in that year. The cabin in the foreground is about where Martin Middaugh lived from 1798 to 1822, and very likely is the identical house, as it appeared seven years after Middaugh's death.

A lithographed view of Buffalo "as seen from the top of the old Buffalo Bank in the year 1829," published in the Buffalo City Directory for 1876, is only a redrawing of Smith's sketch as here reproduced, and is therefore omitted from this collection.

It was not until 1833 that a thoroughly artistic view of Buffalo appeared. It was apparently in that year that there was published in New York a colored plate, 24 by 16 inches in size, entitled "Buffalo from Lake Erie"; it was painted and engraved by W. J. Bennett, from a sketch by J. W. Hill; and was inscribed, in flourished script on the bottom margin, "To E. Johnson, H. Pratt, S. Wilkinson, B. Rathbun and A. Palmer, and Col. Robt. Steele of New York." "Wilkinson" was of course Judge Samuel Wilkeson, and any one familiar with Buffalo's story will recognize all the names, except perhaps the last, as Buffalonians of great energy and prominence at that day. The engraving, now rare, scarcely receives justice from our small reproduction. The artist has hung Turneresque clouds above a Venice-like Buffalo, and has given us a harbor scene that little suggests some moods of old Erie. Did Buffalo ladies and their escorts really go a-pleasuring in canopied barges, back in the 30's? More likely, they are being landed from a vessel, anchored outside the harbor.

The two harbor views on pages 26 and 27 are parts of one picture, a colored lithograph 36 inches long. The only



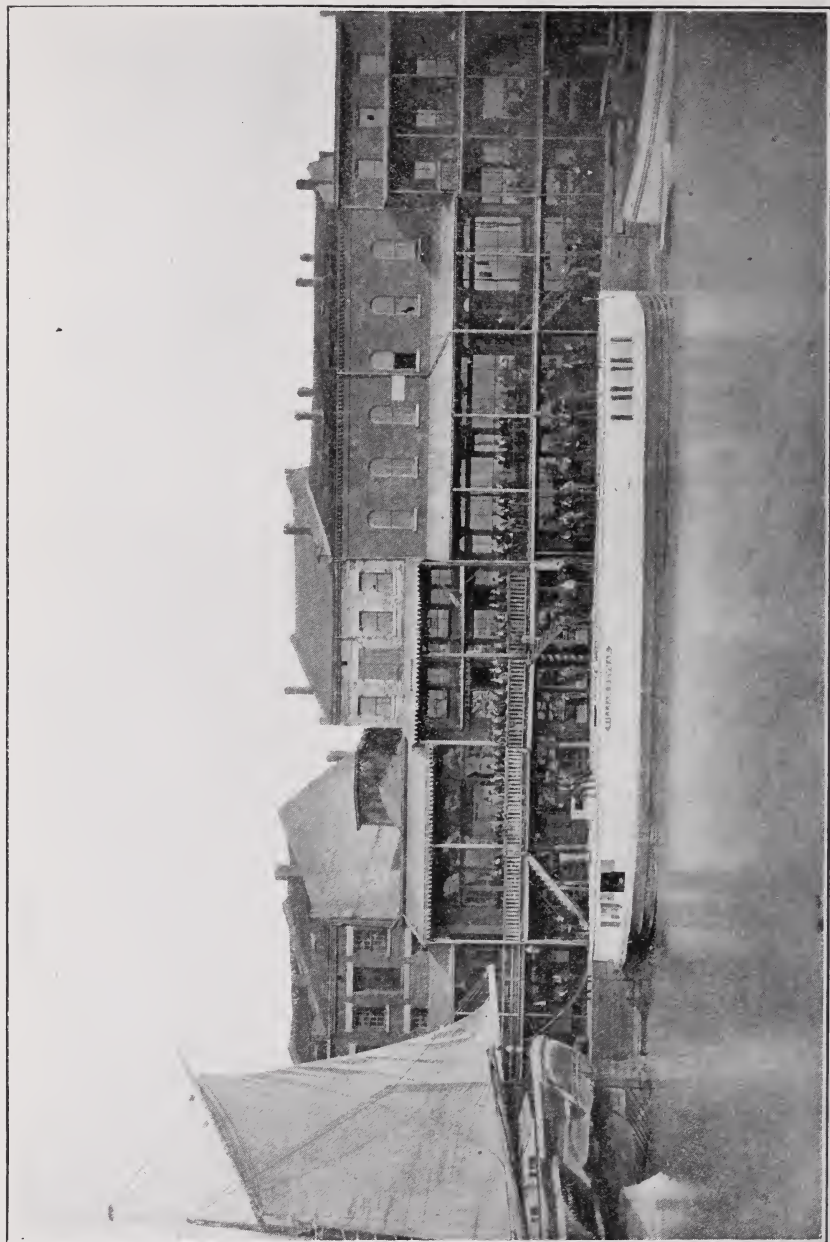
BUFFALO'S WATER FRONT ABOUT 1842, SHOWING THE ORIGINAL DART'S ELEVATOR.

FROM A LITHOGRAPH DRAWN BY E. WHITEFIELD; PUBLISHED BY F. MICHELIN, N. Y. CITY.



BUFFALO'S WATER FRONT ABOUT 1842.

THIS FORMS, WITH THE PRECEDING VIEW, ONE PICTURE IN THE ORIGINAL.



OLD CENTRAL WHARF, ABANDONED 1883;
AND THE PIONEER STEAM CANAL BOAT WILLIAM NEWMAN.

copy known to the writer, owned by the Buffalo Historical Society, bears no date, but as it shows the original Dart's elevator, on Buffalo Creek at the Evans Ship Canal, built 1842, and also shows steamboats which did not ply long after that date, we know that these views show the water front of the early 40's. The steamboats shown are, as named in the original, from left to right, the Niagara, A. D. Patchen, Emerald, Great Western, Oregon (in front of the elevator), Troy, New Orleans and Louisiana; and, in the second section (p. 27), the Empire, Globe and Indiana. This view gives a good idea of the vacant condition of the peninsula at that period.

The old Central Wharf, for many years home of the Board of Trade, would call for a long chapter, but for the fact that its story has been written. It can be found in Volume XIII, Publications of this Society (1909). It may therefore suffice in the present connection to refer the reader to that record, for some account of early buildings in that vicinity, and of changes that have taken place. The old warehouses, stores, and offices shown in the picture all disappeared when the Lackawanna railroad was built through that district in 1883. Old Central Wharf was originally Front street, and gradually became lined with wharves, at first built by private enterprise, but from about 1837 by the City of Buffalo. The Board of Trade, organized in 1844, had its own building at Prime and Hanover streets; four stories high, adequate and imposing. No picture of it is known, though we have an excellent description by one who knew it well. (See Vol. XIII, pp. 244-247.) From 1862 to 1883, the Board of Trade occupied the central building shown in our picture, with some accommodation in adjoining structures. The second story gallery, overlooking the harbor and lake, was a popular rendezvous



BUFFALO IN 1853.

DRAWN BY J. W. HILL. ENGRAVED BY J. H. COLEN. SIZE OF ORIGINAL, 40 BY 24 INCHES.

for many years. The business life of Buffalo now retains nothing so picturesque as old Central Wharf.

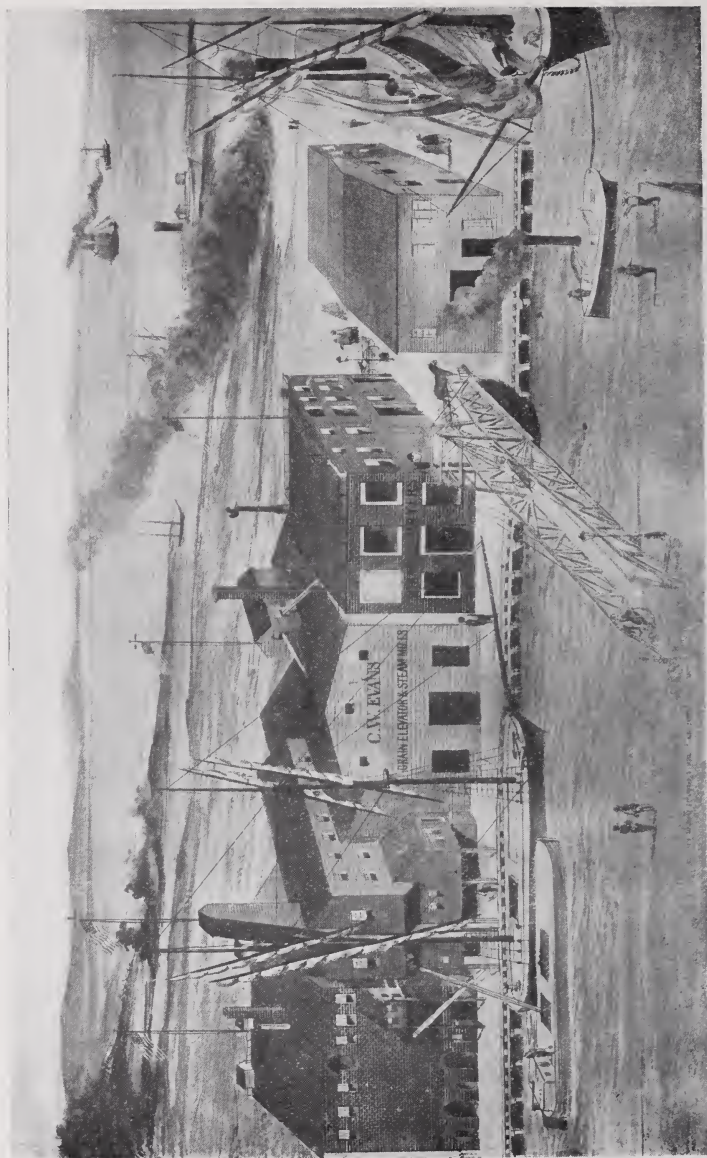
This picture also shows the first steam canal boat, the William Newman, on the occasion of her first trip in 1868.

In 1853, Smith Brothers & Co., well-known lithographers on Fulton street, New York, published the largest picture of Buffalo that had been made. It was 40 by 24 inches, drawn on stone by J. H. Colen, from sketches by J. W. Hill, and was one of a series of "Views of American Cities." This big lithograph, now sixty years old, is still to be seen, occasionally, in Buffalo offices and homes. A leading magazine of that period, The *Ladies Repository*, had it reengraved on steel by Wellstood & Peters, and published it in its issue for April, 1855.

Our own reproduction, for this volume, preserves very well the principal features of the great plate. It shows the steamboats in the Buffalo river, but does not show their names: From left to right, the Mayflower, the Ocean, the Minnesota, and lying at the foot of Main street, the Michigan and the Ohio, famous craft in their time. It shows St. Joseph's cathedral with two towers, which it never had; and this shows that artist Hill drew his picture as he thought it ought to be; but church spires are among the uncertain things of municipal evolution. The north spire of St. Joseph's, sixty years afterward, is still to be built.

Four years later, Smith's "Historical and Statistical Gazetteer of New York State" contained a singularly different view: "Buffalo Harbor from the Light House." It shows the foot of Erie street and the old railroad station.

The first grain elevator on Buffalo river, which was the first anywhere, was Joseph Dart's, built in 1842. It stood at the junction of the Evans ship canal and Buffalo river, where the Bennett elevator was afterwards built. Dart's



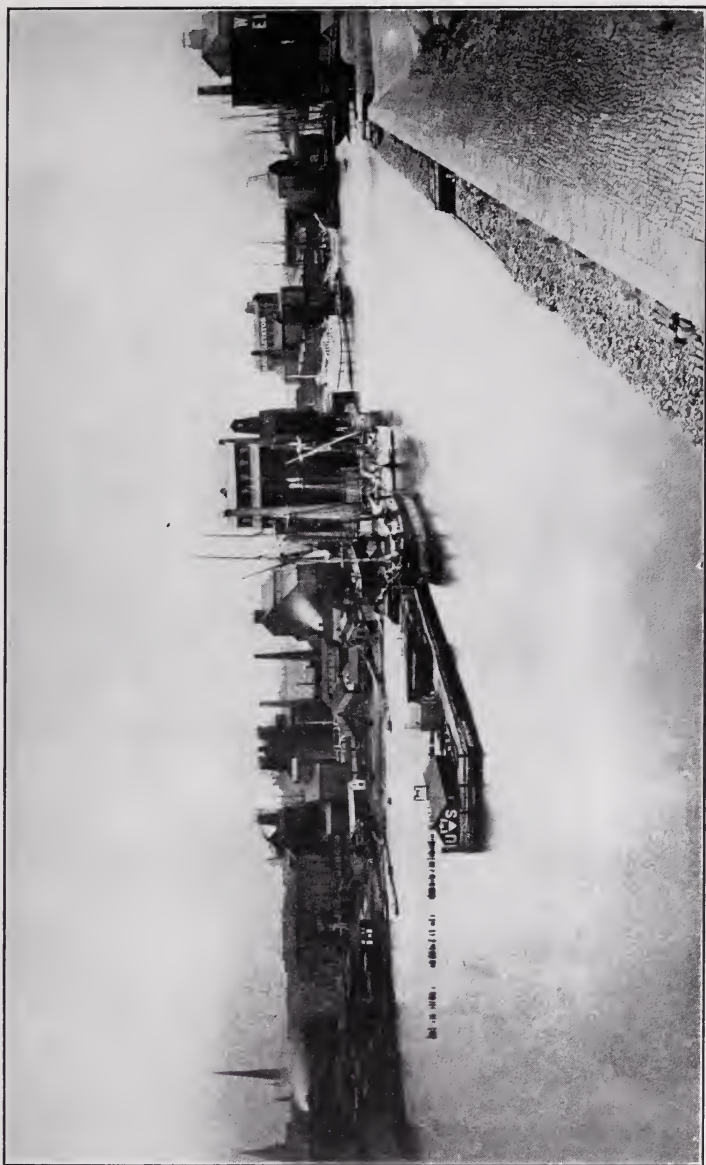
THE ORIGINAL EVANS ELEVATOR AND MILLS, ON THE EVANS SHIP CANAL.
BURNED 1862.



THE ORIGINAL EVANS ELEVATOR, MILLS, ETC., NORTON STREET SIDE.
BURNED 1862.

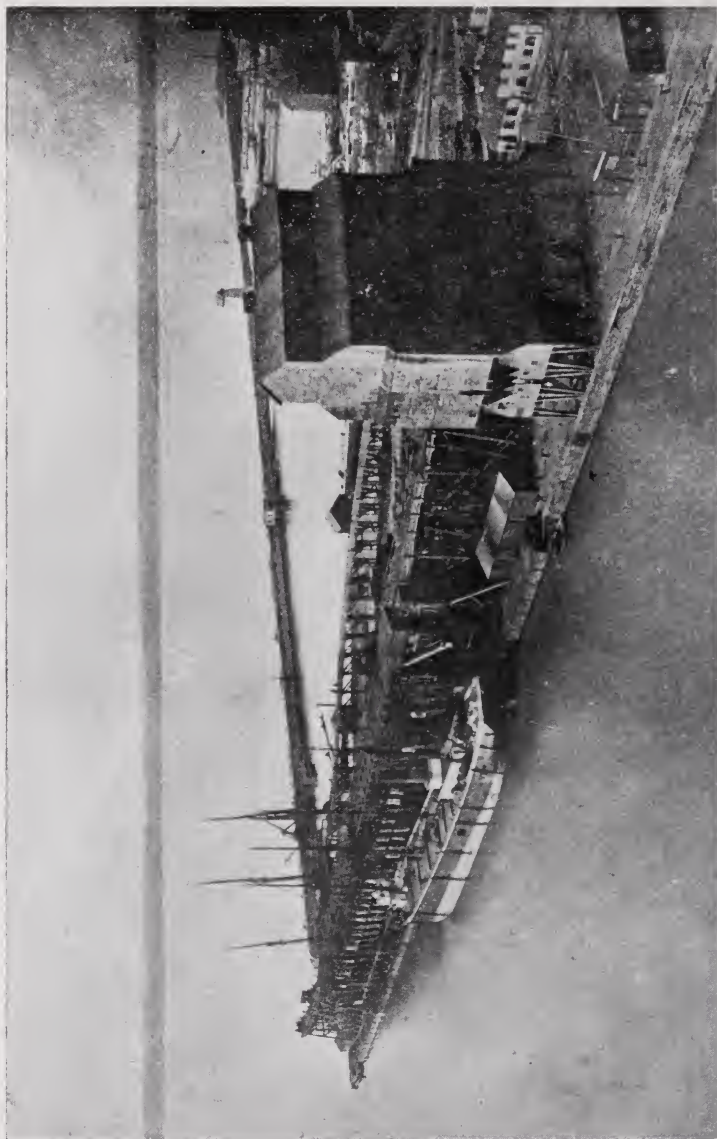


BUFFALO HARBOR FROM THE LIGHT-HOUSE IN 1859.

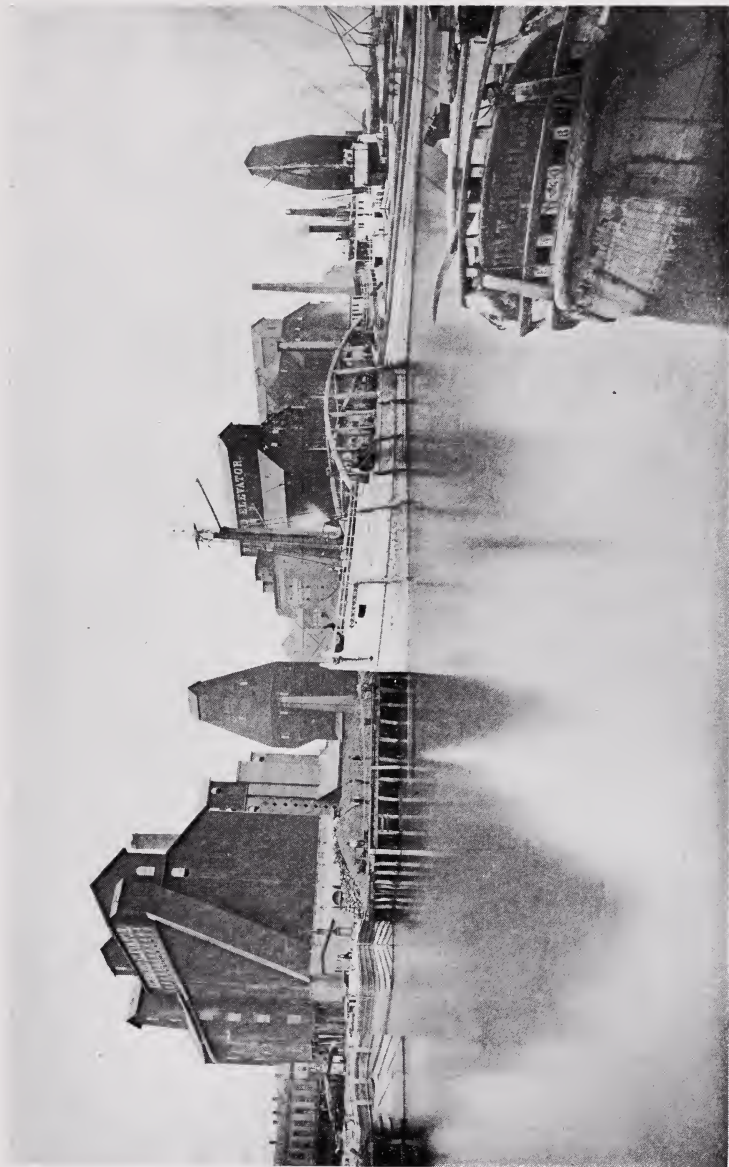


ENTRANCE TO BUFFALO RIVER FORTY YEARS AGO.

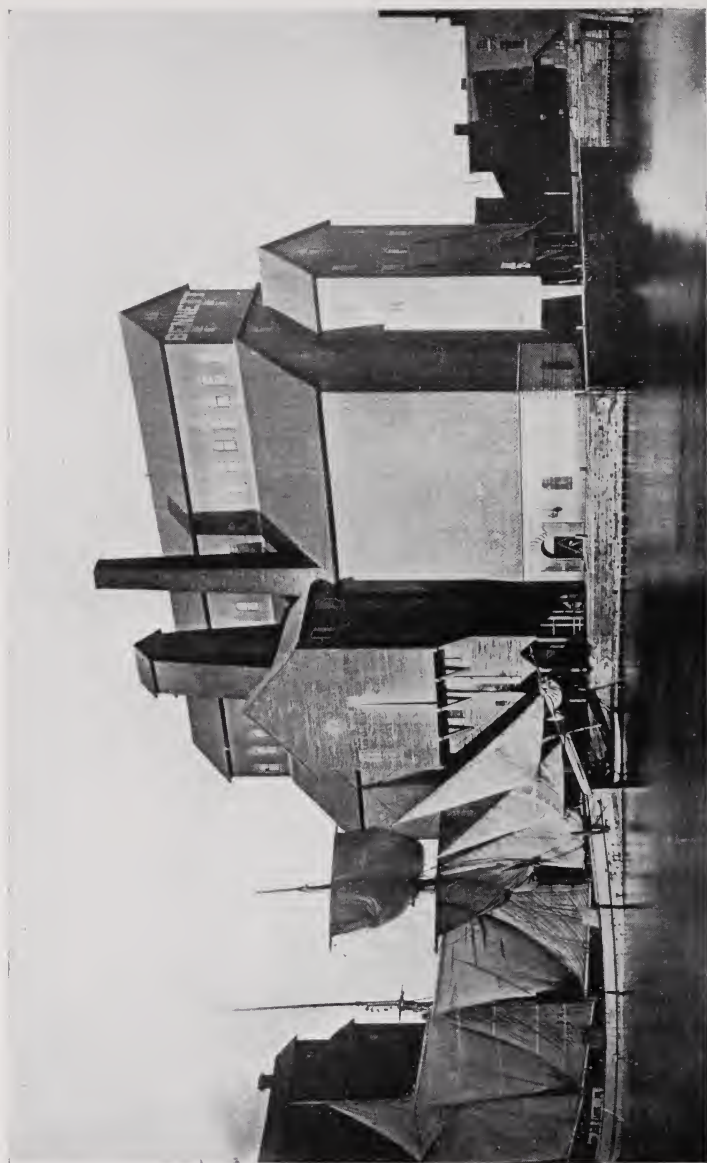
SHOWING THE NORTH PIER BEFORE THE LACKAWANNA RAILROAD TOOK POSSESSION OF IT IN 1879.



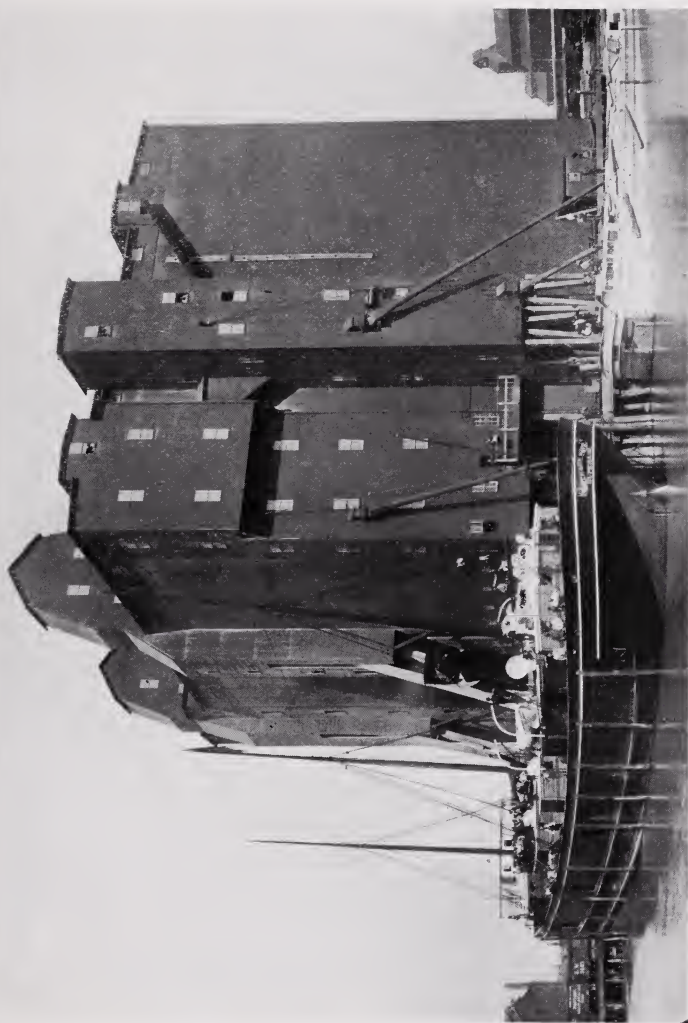
THE MOUTH OF BUFFALO CREEK ABOUT 1879.
SHOWING THE OLD UNION ELEVATOR.



THE EVER-CHANGING HARBOR: A VIEW IN THE '70'S.
THE RICHMOND, AT THE LEFT, STILL STANDS; THE OTHERS HAVE BURNED: THE EXCELSIOR, THE HAZARD IN '74, THE STURGIS
AND THE FULTON.



AN EARLY VIEW OF THE BENNETT ELEVATOR, TAKEN DOWN 1912.



THE DAKOTA ELEVATOR, BURNED AUG. 13, 1900.



THE SECOND WELLS ELEVATOR.

BURNED MAY 4, 1912.



CITY "A" AND CITY "B" ELEVATORS.

ELEVATOR "A" AT RIGHT, PARTLY BURNED, AND BOTH TORN DOWN DECEMBER, 1908.



KELLOGG "A" AND "B" ELEVATORS; MICHIGAN STREET BRIDGE IN FOREGROUND.
ELEVATOR "B," FORMERLY THE COATSWORTH, WAS TORN DOWN 1909; "A," TORN DOWN 1912.

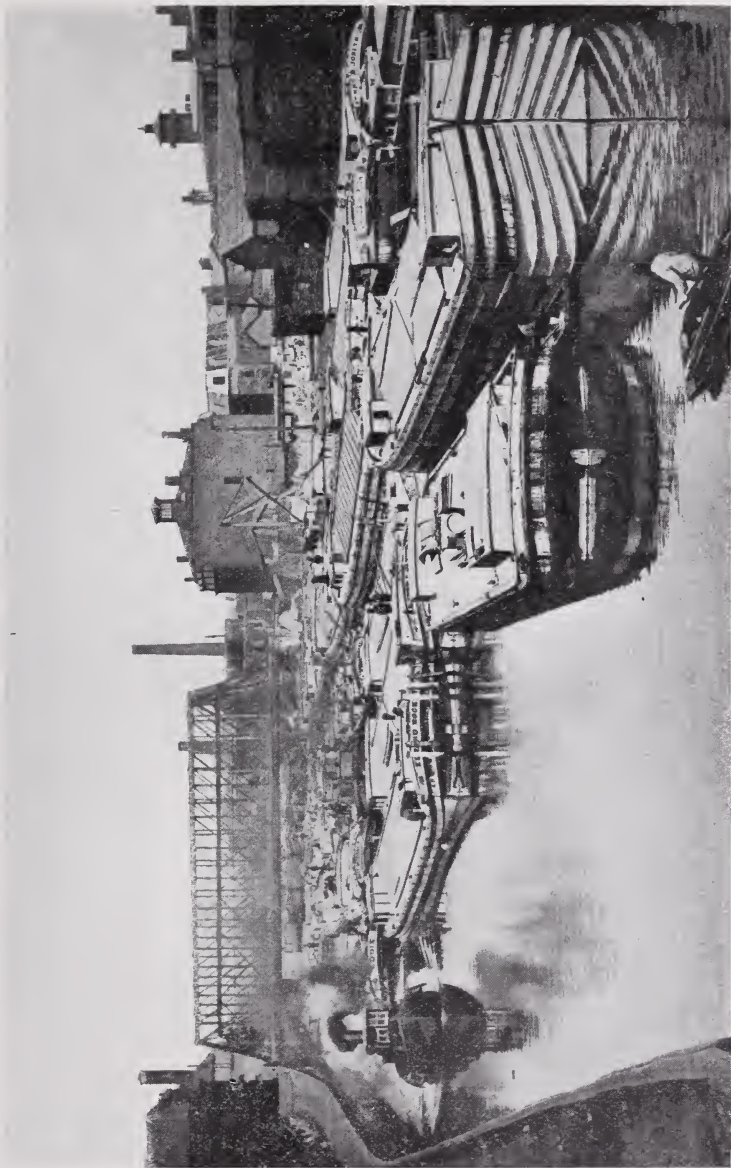


THE WATSON ELEVATOR, BURNED SEPT. 21, 1907.
ITS SITE WAS EXCAVATED FOR A TURNING BASIN, 1912.



THE LAST DAYS OF THE MAIN AND HAMBURG CANAL.

OPENED 1852. ABANDONED AND FILLED IN, 1901. NOW A PART OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD PROPERTY.



ON THE ERIE CANAL NEAR GENESEE STREET IN THE EARLY '80's.

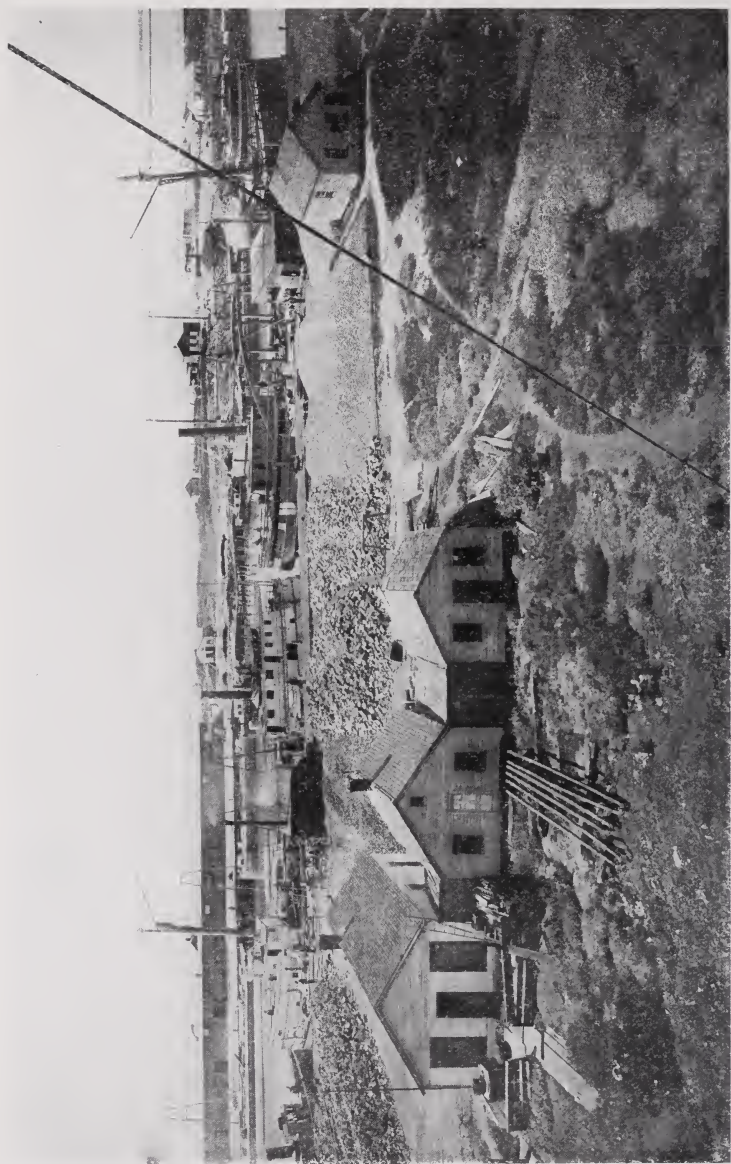
EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

pioneer elevator can be made out in some of the early pictures of the harbor. In later years, gigantic structures, of a size and capacity undreamed of by their inventor, became the characteristic feature of our water-front. A considerable volume would be required to picture all of these uncouth but potential piles—or even all of those that have burned. We have no separate picture of Dart's first elevator; but of its successor, the first Evans elevator, old water-color sketches exist which are herewith reproduced. The Evans property, including elevator, mills, and warehouses, was situated on Norton street, Water street, and the Evans ship canal, completed in 1833. One of the views shows the Norton-street frontage, and the other the frontage on the Evans ship canal. The bridge is the Water street bridge. This entire property was destroyed by fire, September 19, 1862, and was afterwards rebuilt as we see it today.

The views that follow (pp. 34-45) require but little comment. One shows the old Union elevator and coal trestle at the mouth of the river as they were in the late '70's. The Union was afterwards a part of the Bennett elevator property. Several elevator and harbor scenes follow, all of them showing buildings and conditions long since gone. The Erie Canal at Genesee street, thirty years ago, and "The Last Days of the Hamburg," recall conditions in that part of the city that can not exist again. The Hamburg canal has been filled in, and the scene shown in our picture is now a railroad yard, full of tracks, with a promise of worthy railway station buildings to come.

THE FIRST SETTLER

In this connection one naturally asks, Who was the first white man to build in what is now Buffalo, and where was his house? The editor of this volume is not aware that that question has ever been satisfactorily answered. British soldiers lodged at or near the mouth of Buffalo Creek, at various times during the Revolutionary War. If we ignore their lodgments, the first house was apparently that built by Ezekiel Lane and his father-in-law Martin Middaugh, in 1784. The testimony on this point is summed up in Volume VII of these Publications (p. 110). The dwelling is described as "a double log house, on or near Exchange street, a little east of Washington street." This same house was occupied by Judge Zenas Barker in 1807-8. Ketchum puts the date of Middaugh's coming full ten years later, 1794 or 1795 ("History of Buffalo," vol. II, p. 133), and says he "built a house upon Johnston's land, by his permission, near what is now the corner of Washington and Exchange streets—east of Washington and north of Exchange." This house is shown on the valuable plan of Buffalo village drawn by Juba Storrs in April, 1813. It does not show the neighborhood of Washington and Quai streets, where Cornelius Winne built a log cabin prior to 1791. Ketchum says it stood "upon the bank of the Little Buffalo Creek (now [1864] Hamburg Canal), in rear of the present site of the Mansion House, nearly at the junction of Washington and Quai streets." This does not fix the site definitely, as a visit to that neighborhood will discover. Ketchum adds confidently: "This was the first



VIEW FROM THE FOOT OF MAIN STREET, 1870.
LOOKING ACROSS THE ISLAND, TOWARD THE LAKE.

building erected by civilized man in Buffalo." But the obituary notice of Ezekiel Lane, printed in the *Buffalo Commercial Advertiser*, April 8, 1848, says that Middaugh built here in 1784. The writer of the newspaper article was probably Dr. Thomas M. Foote, the accomplished editor of the paper at that time; and sixteen years earlier than Ketchum probably meant additional means for correct information. On April 7, 1848, the day after Mr. Lane died, the *Commercial Advertiser* said:

"We chronicle today the death of Ezekiel Lane, who lived to the advanced age of 102 years. In 1796 there were only four buildings on the present site of Buffalo. Of these the one first built was erected by Ezekiel Lane, and his father-in-law, Martin Middaugh. It was a double log house on or near Exchange street." Some facts are given about Middaugh, and the editor expresses the hope that "some of our antiquarian friends will furnish us with a biographical notice of the lately deceased centenarian." The following day, April 8th, a longer notice appears, in the editorial column, in which it is recorded that "Mr. Lane—as stated by us yesterday—was the first white resident of this city, and erected the first house in this place, in 1784. He lived to witness that single hut multiplied to rising of five thousand buildings, and to see upwards of forty thousand people swarming the densely built streets of a city of which himself and little family were the first sole inhabitants. He was a soldier of the Revolution, and fought at the Battle of Minnisink, in 1779."

The Buffalo Directory of 1847 contains a "Sketch of the History of Buffalo." Its authorship is not there given, but in the "Historical Writings of Orsamus H. Marshall," p. 375, this sketch is referred to as having been written by Mr. Marshall. In that sketch he states:



SECTION OF BUFFALO ADJACENT TO BUFFALO RIVER, 1868.

"The earliest information we possess as to the settlement of Buffalo, is derived from the testimony of Mr. Joseph Landon, in an important trial involving the title to the lands on the Peninsula. He came here to reside in 1806, and kept the Mansion House for many years. He was a land surveyor by profession, and passed through Buffalo in 1796, on his way to Ohio, with a party of about sixty persons, to survey the Western Reserve. . . . At that time, the clearings were inconsiderable, and there were but four buildings on the whole of the present site of Buffalo. One was a double log house on or near Exchange street, a little east of Washington street, and was occupied by Martin Middaugh, and one Ezekiel Lane, his son-in-law, until 1807 or 1808, when Judge Barker, the father of Jacob A. Barker, moved into it. Another house was on the corner of Commercial street and the Terrace, where the Sidway block now stands; another one, and the fourth, near the site of the Mansion House. One of these seems to have been kept by one Jesse Skinner, as a kind of tavern. The fourth was occupied by Col. Asa Ransom. Three or at most four families then constituted the whole permanent population." Further on, speaking of Lane, Mr. Marshall adds: "He and Middaugh built the house they occupied, which was the first one erected in Buffalo." This statement made in 1847, by so careful a chronicler, based on direct testimony of Joseph Landon, whose residence in the town dated from 1806, is probably as conclusive as any we can reach. The site of that house is understood to be occupied now by the Exchange street extension of the Matthews building, a few rods east of Washington street.

Ketchum's date is clearly wrong, and may have been a typographical error, of which there are many in his book. Turner, whose "History of the Holland Purchase" was



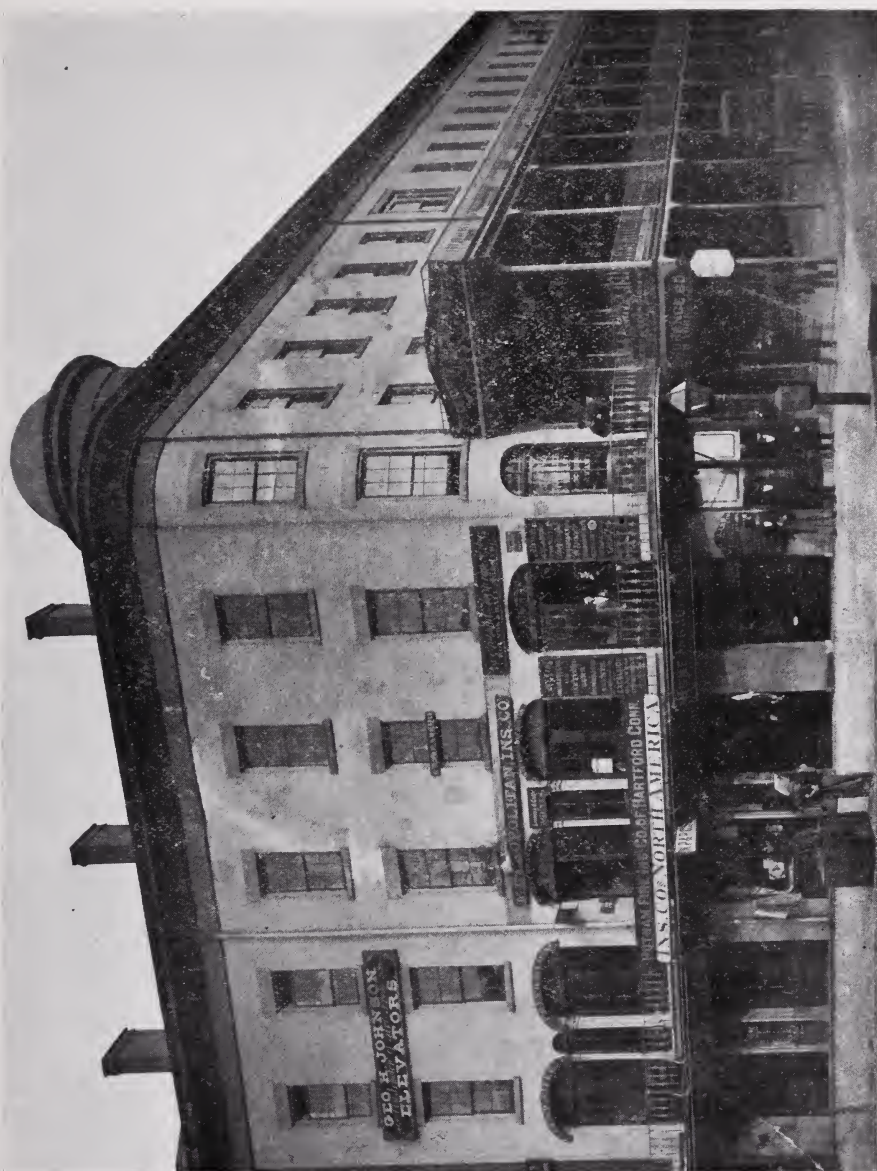
OLD BUILDINGS ON BUFFALO RIVER, FOOT OF MAIN STREET,
SAID TO HAVE BEEN BUILT IN THE '30'S. TORN DOWN 1912.

issued in 1849, speaks of Middaugh and Lane's house without giving the date of its erection, and adds: "Winne had [in 1798] a log house on bank of Little Buffalo, south of Mansion House," but does not say when it was built. The manuscript records of the Holland Land Company in the possession of the Buffalo Historical Society, throw no light on the matter. The weight of evidence clearly lies in favor of Middaugh. This pioneer "who spoke Indian better than English," as Dr. Foote wrote, removed in 1798 from present Exchange street to the peninsula (now called the Island) between Buffalo river and the lake, and there he died in 1822. About 1860 Charles P. Dwyer projected an illustrated history of Buffalo, to be issued in parts. It is not known to have got beyond part one, consisting of 32 pages of text and two lithographed views, one of them purporting to show Middaugh's house on the peninsula. A pretty picture was made of it, but we cannot be sure that it looks like anything that really existed. Of Middaugh's earlier house on Exchange street, or of Winne's on the Little Buffalo, no picture—not even an imaginary one—exists.

Colonel Thomas Proctor, visiting the Senecas on Buffalo Creek in April, 1791, found Cornelius Winne keeping store "about four miles distant" from the Indian villages up the big Buffalo. Augustus Porter in 1795, speaks of Middaugh, Winne and William Johnston as the three white men at Buffalo. Other early visitors mention them, but none offers evidence as to which was here first. Johnston (not Johnson, as books and newspapers usually have it) was the first land-owner here, after the Indians. The others were squatters, with no title.

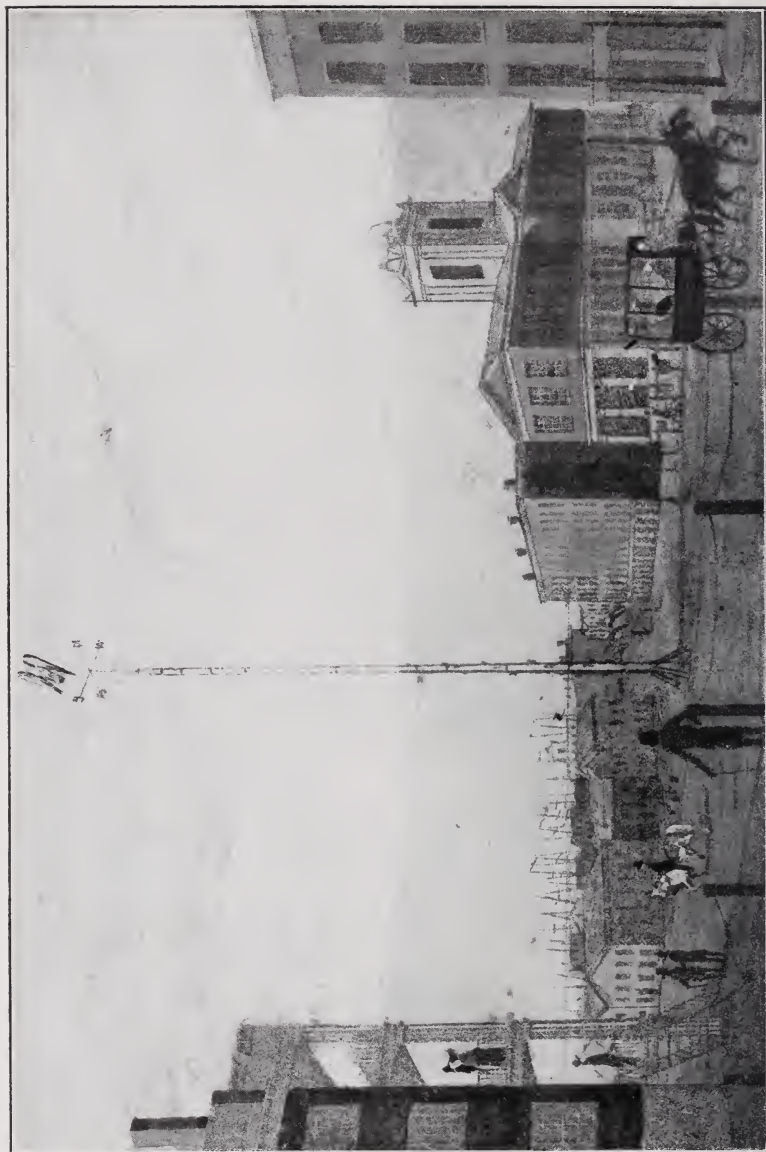


THE HAZARD BLOCK, FOOT OF MAIN STREET, WEST SIDE.
DEMOLISHED 1882. VIEW TAKEN IN THE EARLY '70'S.



COMMERCIAL HOTEL, MAIN AND OHIO STREETS.

BUILT ABOUT 1840. IN ITS LAST YEARS, USED FOR VARIOUS BUSINESSES. DEMOLISHED 1882.



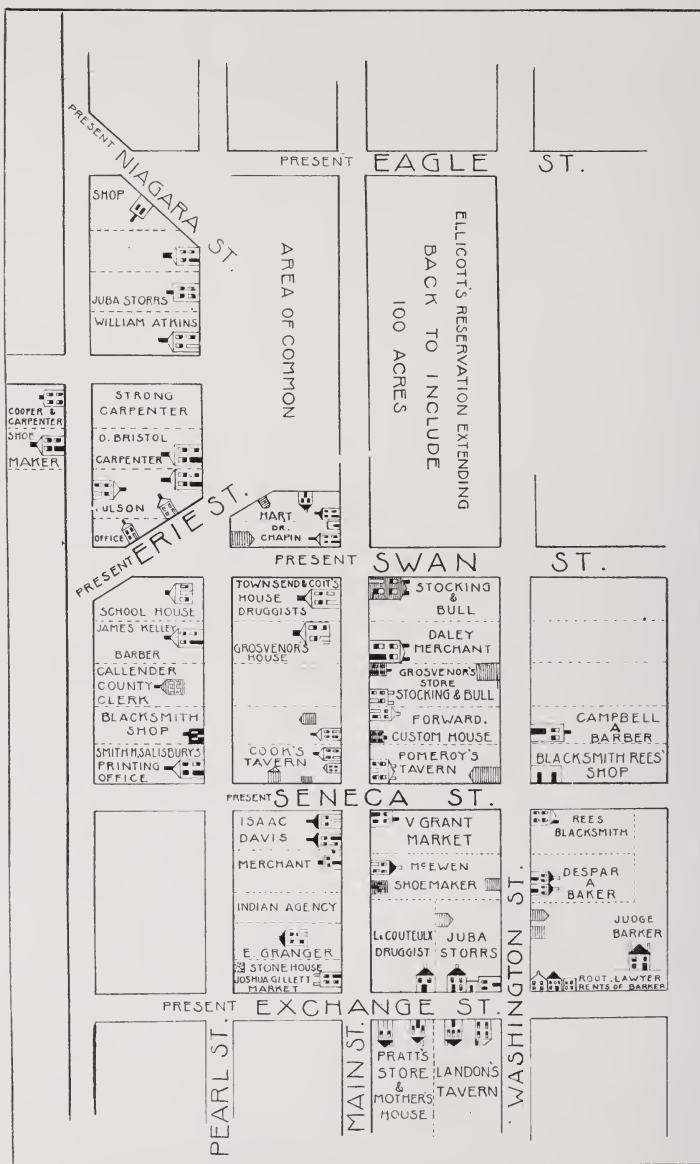
THE OLD MARKET HOUSE ON THE TERRACE.

BUILT IN THE '30'S, TORN DOWN 1853. THE BALCONIES OF THE MANSION HOUSE SHOW AT THE LEFT.—FROM AN EARLY PRINT.

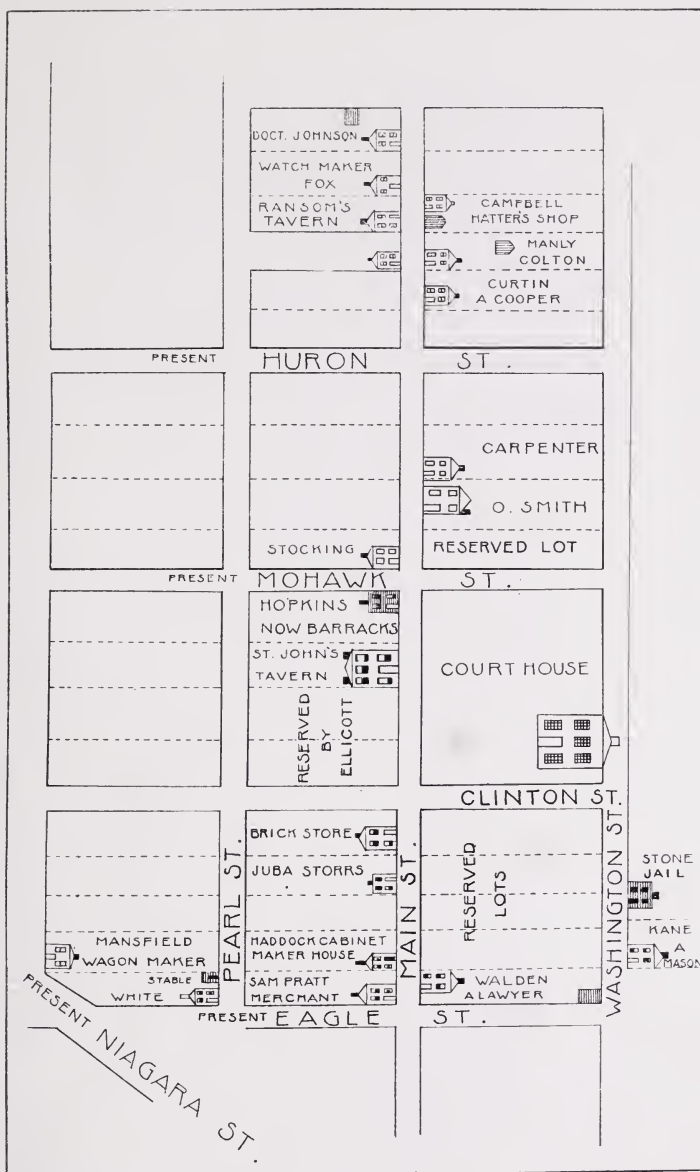
THE EARLIEST BUFFALO

Except those given on preceding pages, no pictures of Buffalo before the burning are known to the compiler of this book. There is, however, a diagram of the early village, unique and useful. The original was drawn by Juba Storrs, and marked: "Plat of Buffalo village as it is at this date, April, 1813." What has become of the original is not known. Some fifty years ago it was in existence, and a lithograph reproduction was made. From one of the copies of that reproduction our sketches are drawn. They are an exact copy of the original except for the correction of a few errors, the division of the plat into two, to fit our pages, and a general re-lettering, to make it more readily understood.

The diagrams show the inner lots which had been built on, in the spring of 1813. The unnamed buildings are barns, shops and sheds. What is now Exchange, from Main street east, is really the starting-point of settlement. Note has been made of the location of Middaugh & Lane's cabin. The houses of Judge Barker, and of Root, in the Storrs drawing, were its successors. John Crow's log tavern stood in 1803 near the southwest corner of present Exchange and Washington streets. When Capt. Samuel Pratt brought his family here in 1804 he first lodged at Crow's, then in a temporary log house on the Terrace, then in his own house on the present site of the Mansion House, west of Crow's. His first store was on the north side of

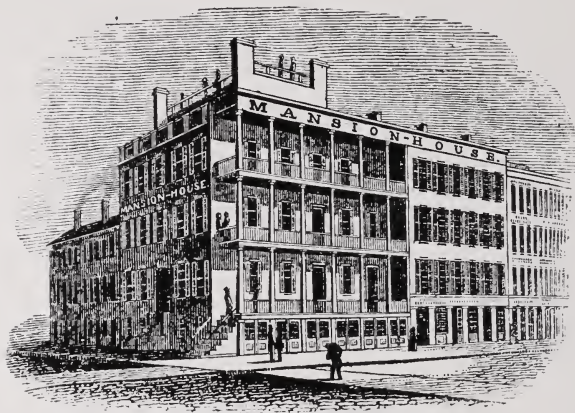


THE BUFFALO THAT WAS BURNED IN 1813.
 REDRAWN FROM JUBA STORRS' SKETCH MADE IN APRIL, 1813.



NORTHERLY EXTENSION OF MAP ON PRECEDING PAGE.

BUILDINGS AND BOUNDARY LINES ARE SHOWN AS IN THE ORIGINAL.

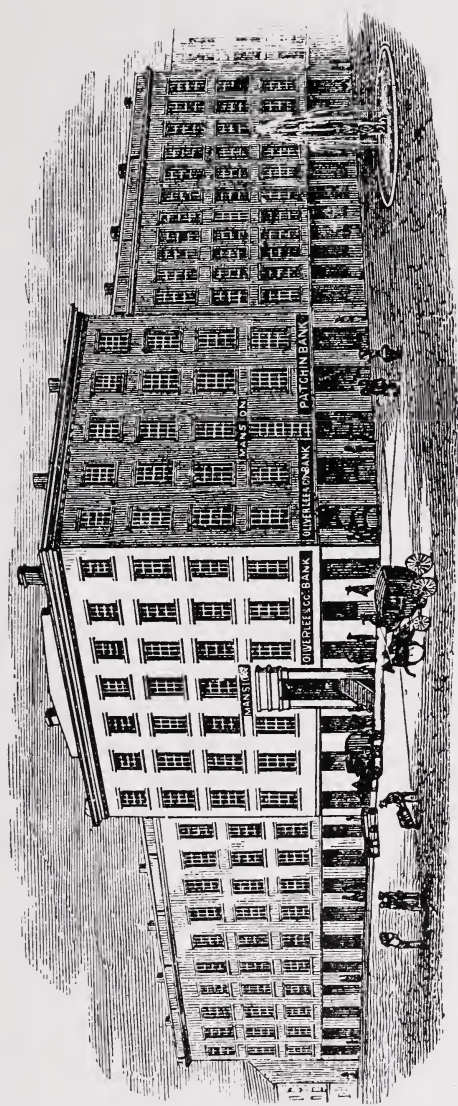


THE MANSION HOUSE IN 1842.

FROM AN ENGRAVING OF THAT YEAR, BY J. W. ORR.

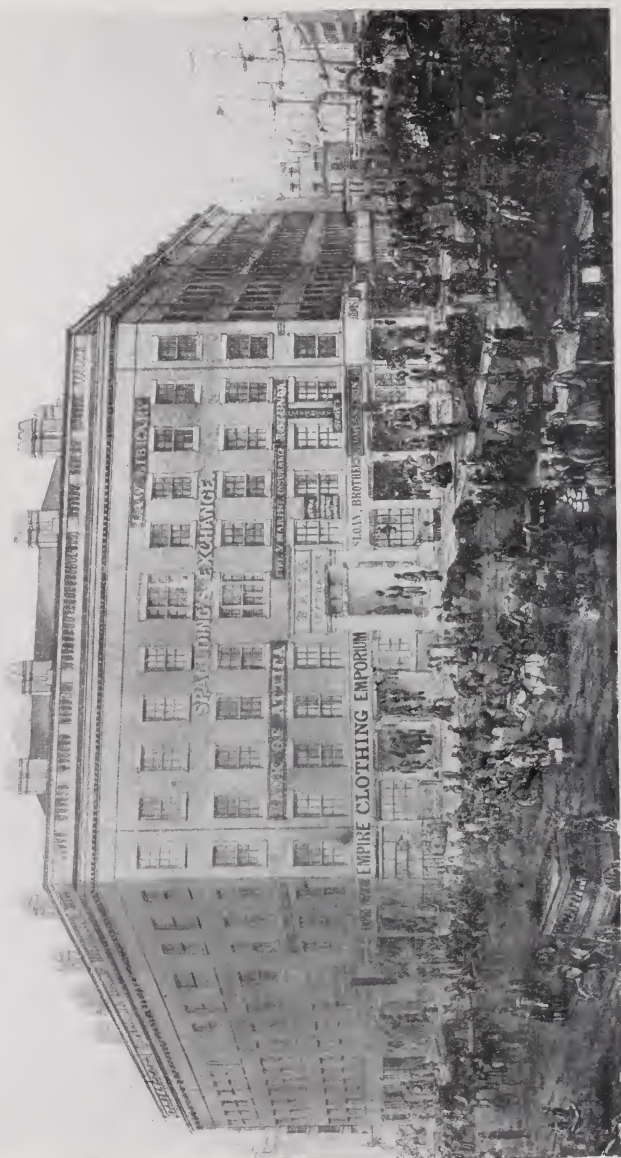
Crow street—now Exchange—but he soon built a two-and-a-half story frame house on the corner, with store adjoining, as shown in Storrs' plan. This was the first frame dwelling in Buffalo and was called the Mansion, which probably indicates the source of the name of the Mansion House.

In 1809 Crow's became Landon's, which name it bore in 1813 when the town was burned. Rebuilt after the war, it was kept until 1824 by Joseph Landon, and is described as a "long low wooden building, south side of Crow between Main and Washington." In 1825 it was kept by Phineas Barton, who named it the Mansion House, which name it still bears. Philip Dorsheimer conducted it for some years and made it famous. It was rebuilt in 1843, and again in 1846, and several times since has been altered or enlarged. About 1883 it was built up to six stories and extended to Washington street. A lithograph of the '30's shows it of four stories, with a balcony for each story on the Main-street side. Orr's woodcut of 1842 shows the same thing, better. Woodcuts of a later date show it without balconies,



THE MANSION HOUSE AS IT WAS IN 1859.

FROM ONE OF PHILIP DORSHEIMER'S BILL-HEADS, THE CORNER WAS THEN OCCUPIED BY OLIVER LEE & CO.'S BANK, THE PATCHIN BANK ADJOINING.



SPAULDING'S EXCHANGE. BUILT 1845, REBUILT 1852.
FROM A PAINTING OF ABOUT 1849.

but with a fountain at the Main-street entrance. One may be skeptical about that fountain.

Opposite this property, in 1813, was Louis Le Couteulx's house and garden; and to the east of them, the house of Juba Storrs, who drew this diagram.

Passing up what is now Washington street, there were three houses, all on the east side: that of Despar or Despard, a baker; then the house of David Rees, his blacksmith shop opposite, on the northeast corner of Washington and Seneca. A little further up was Campbell, a barber.

A letter preserved among the Holland Land Co. papers runs in part as follows:

BUFFALOE CREEK, Apreil 1st 1806

MR. BENJAMIN ELLICOTT *Esg.*

SIR, Mr. David Rees has got Me to Rite to you for A Lot for him he wants it to Put a shop on Amediately it is one of the Iner Lots Number 176 he has got the Mony for the fifth Part Any Time any time you will Rite to him or Me we will send you the Cash and you shall have the Whole of the Mony in one year Please to Rite by Mail the Price Put it as Loe as you can for your Pay will be Good and he is a Good Man or I would not Take the Troubel to Rite. . . .

Your very humbel Sarvent

VINCENT GRANT

Not strong on spelling, but sturdy pioneers, both of them. No letter from Rees himself is preserved in these voluminous papers; perhaps he couldn't write, but he could shoe a horse or mend a gun, or forge a hundred things—much more useful service then, than the holding of a pen.

Passing up Main street, above Le Couteulx's, we come to McEwen's house and shoe-shop; then the market of Vincent Grant, where the Birge building (People's Bank) now is. Pomeroy's tavern was on the northeast corner of Main and



THE TERRACE IN 1866.

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH OF THAT DATE, SHOWING SPAULDING'S EXCHANGE, THE AMERICAN THEATER, AND THE EVERETT HOUSE,
WHICH EARLIER, AND LATER, WAS THE UNITED STATES HOTEL.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

Seneca. Then came the custom house, and the stores or houses of Stocking & Bull, Grosvenor, and Daley.

The west side of Main, beginning at the Terrace, showed Joshua Gillet's market, then the U. S. Indian Agency, in the charge of Erastus Granger; the property of Isaac Davis; Cook, a tavern keeper; Grosvenor's house; and Townsend & Coit's drug-store at Main and Swan, where the Townsend block now stands. Dr. Chapin was across Swan street (the Chapin block now stands on the Pearl-street end of the block), and just above him, fronting the common (Erie street) was the store of Eli Hart.

The Ellicott reserve, on this map, east of Main, extends from Swan to Eagle streets. Ebenezer Walden's house was at Main and Eagle. In the rear, east of Washington, was the house of Kane, a mason, and the old stone jail. In the block above, west of the Washington-street line, was the first court house. Above Eagle the street lines have been changed. Present Court street and Broadway are not shown.

Samuel Pratt, Jr., built at the northwest corner of Main and Eagle streets, in 1810. A few other houses were scattered along the west side of Main street (that side preferred by the early settlers because less exposed to the lake winds): Haddock, a cabinet maker; Juba Storrs; St. John, Hopkins and Stocking. Those further up the street were pretty well out of the clearing. With one or two exceptions, there was nothing west of Pearl street except forest. The first school house was at Pearl and Erie—present Dun building—the county clerk's office was a little below, and the pioneer printing office of Smith H. Salisbury, at the northwest corner of Pearl and Seneca streets.

Rees' blacksmith shop, the stone walls of the jail, and the St. John house were all that were not destroyed when the village was burned, eight months after Juba Storrs

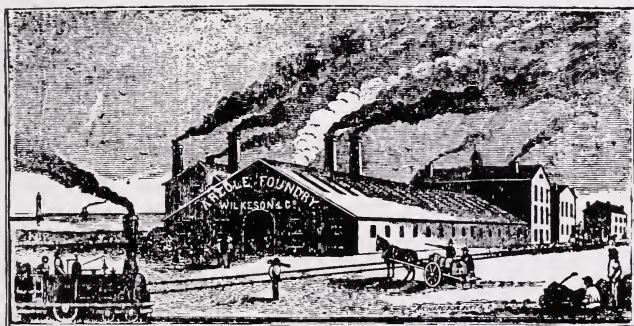
EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

made his sketch. Of the buildings that were burned, many were of logs, a few were frame, and a few were brick. The store of Juba Storrs & Co., on Main near present Court street, is said to have been the first brick building in Buffalo. The second was Judge Walden's house, built in 1811, at the northeast corner of Main and Eagle. This house is shown in a lithograph of the Tippecanoe log-cabin, on a subsequent page.

EARLY PICTURE-MAKING

Of most of the early business places there are no pictures. Rarely, enterprising houses used woodcuts in their advertisements, in newspapers and in the City Directory. A few of these ante-photograph pictures are given. Of this sort is the woodcut of Wilkeson & Co.'s Arcole Foundry at No. 64 Main street; this is from an advertisement of 1844.

Among the early workers in the field of art in Buffalo were John W. Orr, J. H. Richardson, and Filetus P. Butler. They were wood engravers, and to their skill we are indebted for the only pictures known of several Buffalo buildings. Orr is best remembered by his dainty little pictures which embellish a "Pictorial Guide to the Falls of Niagara," published in Buffalo by Salisbury & Clapp in 1842. This excellent little work contains several views of Buffalo buildings of that period, some of them being re-

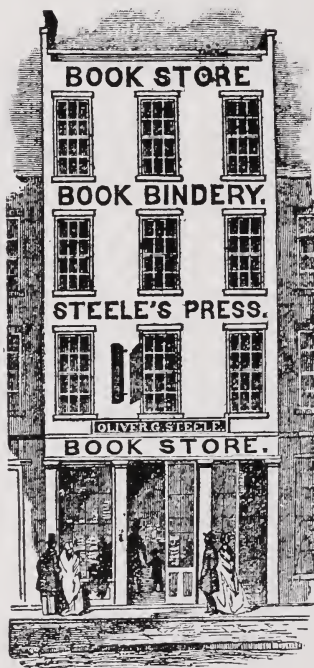


THE ARCOLE FOUNDRY, NO. 64 MAIN STREET.

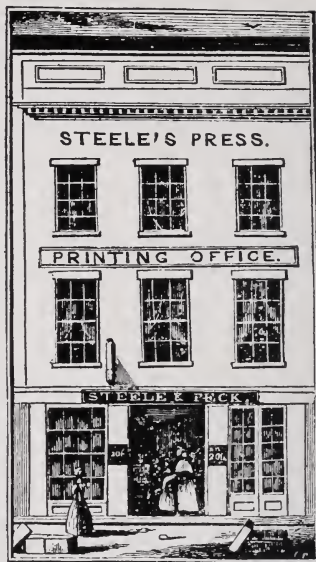
FROM AN ADVERTISEMENT OF 1844.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

produced in the present collection. Mr. Orr was succeeded in business, on West Swan street, by J. H. Richardson, a less skillful artist, a sample of whose work is the cut of the Arcole Foundry on page 67. In the late '40's and '50's, Filetus P. Butler, at his office in Spaulding's Exchange, engraved numerous views of Buffalo buildings.



206 MAIN (OLD NO.) IN 1848.



206 MAIN (OLD NO.) IN 1838.

One of these shows us Geo. H. Derby & Co.'s book store at No. 164 Main street (old number) as it was in 1850. Another is the store-front of N. Wilgus, at No. 231 Main (old number) in 1854. Several years earlier are two views of O. G. Steele's printing office and book store in 1838 and 1848, both at the same number, 206 Main street. The type of building shown in these old woodcuts is still with us, and some very

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.



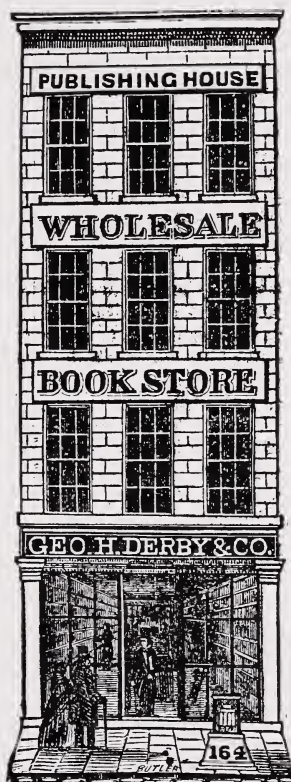
231 MAIN (OLD NO.) IN 1854.

ing changed more the appearance of store windows than the introduction of plate glass. Large clear plates give a smartness and elegance all undreamed of in the earlier Buffalo.

A word further as to early picture-making. The first daguerreotypes taken in Buffalo, were made, it is recorded, by a Frenchman, one M. Girand. A trustworthy chronicler, Mrs. Lucy Williams Hawes, writing of the Buffalo of 1836, says of Girand that he made his pictures "in a white tent, in an open field opposite the American hotel"—

prominent Main-street stores, now in use, are themselves the best possible illustration of many of their kind that have gone.

One must remember, of early business buildings and homes alike, that they had no electricity, no gas, no kerosene even until the late '50's, no furnace heating, no elevators. Noth-



164 MAIN (OLD NO.) IN 1850.

present site of the Brisbane building. "A sunny day was necessary, and we often waited many days to get one. We were seated in the glare, and remained motionless for twenty minutes. The little octagonal frames were made of curled maple. Children who were the victims of this process were quieted with paregoric, as chloroform and ether had not been discovered."

In the decade of the '40's, Donald McDonnell, with a partner, established "Daguerrian Rooms" at No. 192 Main street. It was probably he who made the daguerreotype of the Eagle-street theater, now owned by the Buffalo Historical Society, and, so far as known, the only original picture of that building in existence. When the first American Hotel burned, in 1855, Mr. McDonnell made a daguerreotype of the ruins. That picture also is in the keeping of the Historical Society, and both are reproduced in this volume. The picture of the hotel ruins on a subsequent page is said to be the first out-door view made in Buffalo.

In 1858 Mr. Horace L. Bliss purchased the McDonnell gallery, near the northeast corner of Main and Eagle streets. Photography was still experimental, and it was not until 1864, when the collodion process was perfected, that out-door work could be done, at any distance from the studio dark-room. The first out-door views made by Mr. Bliss, were of the ruins of the second American Hotel, burned in 1865. The scene was just across the street from his gallery.

A BUILDER OF BUFFALO

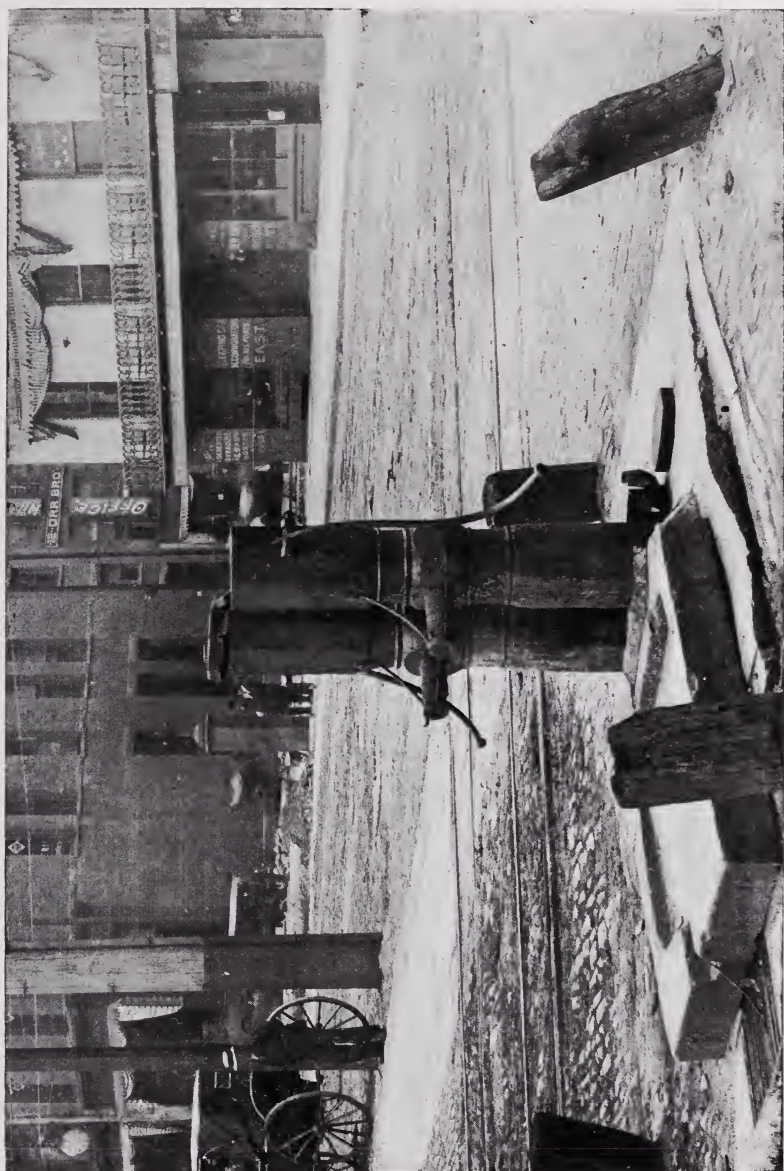
Whoever inquires into the story of old buildings in Buffalo, soon comes upon the trail of Benjamin Rathbun. With very few exceptions, our "old" buildings do not antedate the decade of the '30's. In the older part of the town many are now standing—some of them where better buildings ought to be—which were built by Rathbun. If we seek the record of old-time business blocks, hotels, theaters, residences, no matter what, we encounter the statement that Benjamin Rathbun was the builder. The Buffalo of 1835-6 seems to have been pretty generally Rathbun-built. In Barber & Howe's "Historical Collections of the State of New York," published in 1841, one may read of Buffalo that "an enterprising citizen, Mr. Rathbun, during the year 1835, erected 99 buildings, at an aggregate cost of \$500,000; of these, 52 were stores of the first class, 32 dwellings, a theater, etc." It is a unique record.

Much has been written about Mr. Rathbun, not always with a true conception of his worth and extraordinary ability. For the principal facts in his career the reader is referred to volume XI., Publications of the Buffalo Historical Society. Our present concern with him is chiefly as a builder.

When Rathbun was arrested, Aug. 3, 1836, he had some 2500 men at work for him, in Buffalo and Niagara Falls. In the decade before his downfall, he had built more of Buffalo, probably, than all other builders together. He built the first American Hotel in 1835-36. He built many



THE WESTERN HOTEL ON THE TERRACE, IN ITS LAST DAYS.
BUILT 1841. ITS LAST USE WAS AS POLICE HEADQUARTERS. TORN DOWN 1888.



"THE MOST HISTORIC SPOT IN BUFFALO"—THE TWIN PUMPS ON THE TERRACE.

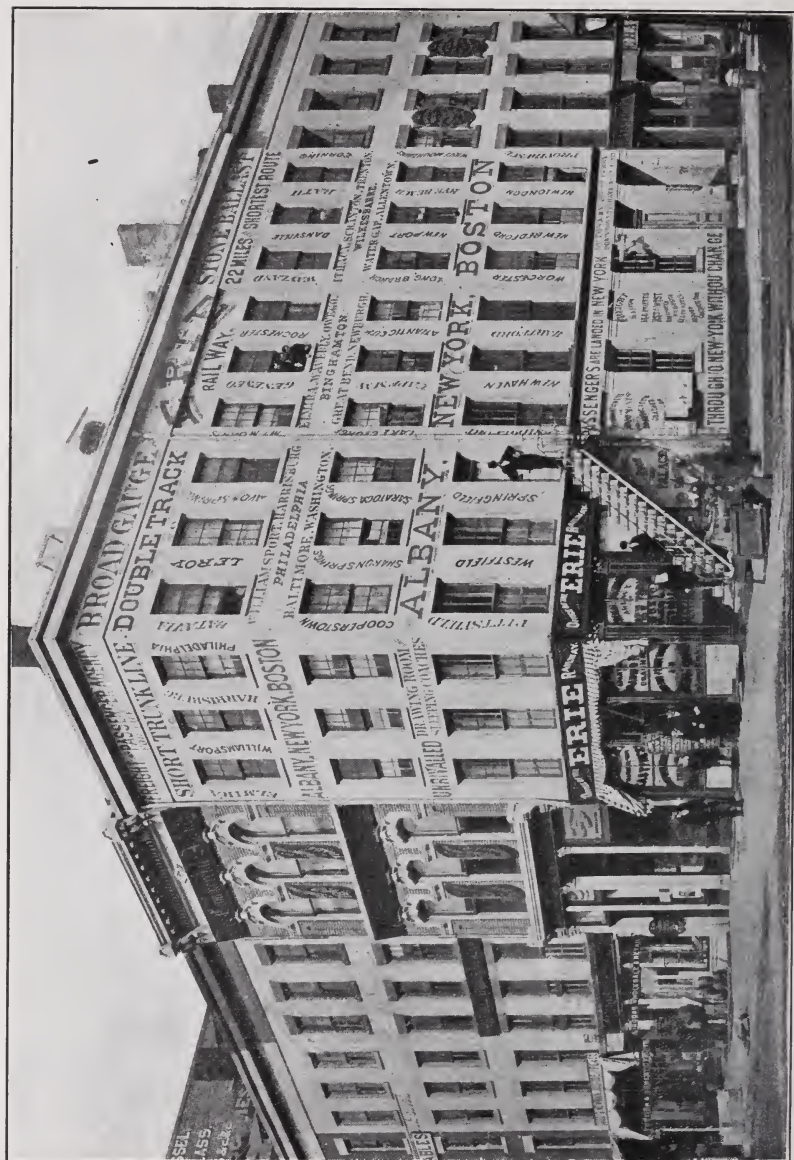


A FIRE LADDER TEST IN FRONT OF THE WESTERN HOTEL.
THIS PICTURE SHOWS THE CUPOLA WHICH WAS A FEATURE OF THE BUILDING
IN ITS EARLIER YEARS.



GOTHIC HALL, 189 MAIN STREET, ERECTED 1843.

A RECENT PICTURE OF A UNIQUE BUSINESS STRUCTURE, REMODELED 1846. THE FIRST-STORY FRONT WAS ORIGINALLY ORNATE GOTHIC.



THE LE COUTEUX BLOCK, MAIN AND EXCHANGE STREETS.

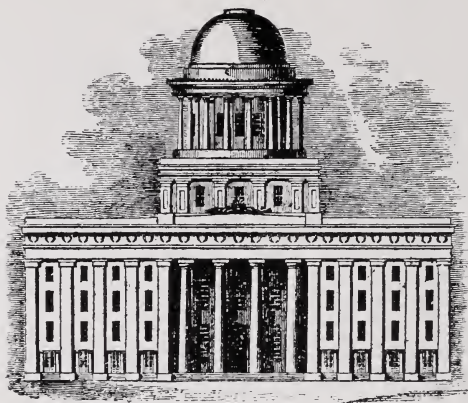
ON THE SITE OF LOUIS LE COUTEUX'S HOUSE AND GARDEN. THIS BUILDING TAKEN DOWN, 1889, WHEN PRESENT BUILDING WAS ERECTED.

of the three and four-story brick fronts on lower Main street, some of which are still standing, as for instance most of the stores between North and South Division streets. The long Webster block, on lower Main, is credited to him. Some of the best residences, as the Pierre A. Barker house on Hudson street—then quite out of town—afterwards bought by Jonathan Sidway, and the old Unitarian church, now the Austin building, were built by him.

Thomas Farnham, who came to Buffalo in 1833, and who for many years was personally acquainted with Mr. Rathbun, left at his death a long manuscript account of Rathbun's business operations in Buffalo. That document, now in the keeping of the Buffalo Historical Society, is probably in many respects the most trustworthy record we have of Benjamin Rathbun's operations. Too long and diffuse to make its publication advisable, it has been drawn upon for the following extracts and summary.

After stating the facts regarding Mr. Rathbun's birth and first entry upon business in Buffalo, Mr. Farnham writes:

"He kept the Rathbun Hotel [Eagle Tavern], one of the best in the western part of the State. It was located on the west side of Main street, near Court. The main building was of brick, three stories high, and was about 150 feet south of Court street. From its northern line to Court street, it was a two-story frame building. About 1833, Mr. Rathbun sold out to Isaac R. Harrington, who conducted the hotel until the American Hotel was built on a portion of the same ground. Mr. Rathbun then engaged in the building business, putting up houses and stores by contract. His business grew rapidly and he soon employed a large number of men. He had stores for drygoods and



BENJAMIN RATHBUN'S BUFFALO EXCHANGE.

THE FOUNDATIONS WERE IN PART LAID, 1835-6. IT WAS TO HAVE FRONTED ON MAIN, FILLING THE WHOLE BLOCK, NORTH TO SOUTH DIVISION, 222 FEET HIGH TO TOP OF DOME.

groceries, both for the general public and for the men in his employ. Among the structures which he put up at this period, was the block known as the Webster Block, on the east side of Main, extending north from Perry street to what was then known as Huff's Hotel. He was by far the largest builder in the city and was the means of driving away others who could not compete with him.

"Mr. Rathbun was always a gentleman in appearance. Of medium size, he dressed with taste and wore black, cut in the latest fashion with a white cravat, appearing more like a clergyman than a business man. He was retiring in manner and seldom seen by the men in his employ. His office was in his house, located on the northeast corner of Eagle and Main streets, a very pleasant residence, from which he directed his many enterprises. His brother, Lyman Rathbun, was his financial agent, with the help of a nephew, Rathbun Allen. Lyman Rathbun maintained a large office near the American Block, in which were many

private apartments. It was here that most of the work was done that resulted in his ruin, as well as that of many others."

Mr. Farnham recites the story of the crisis of 1836 and the discovery of more than a million dollars' worth of forged Rathbun paper in circulation. "My explanation of it," writes Mr. Farnham, "is as follows, for I had a little experience in the matter myself:

"I was then engaged with the late Orlando Allen in the exchange and banking business. Lyman Rathbun negotiated a loan of us of \$10,000, for which we received Benjamin Rathbun's checks for from \$300 to \$500 each, endorsed by our citizens that we considered perfectly good. The checks were made payable at bank at different days, but we never had occasion to present them at bank, for they would always come in a day or two before they were due and pay them, or renew them. So we had no occasion to have them protested: that they were forged never entered our minds. And this promptness in attending to his payments made his credit good. When Mr. Rathbun's failure was known, then the forged endorsements were



THE BANK OF BUFFALO, MAIN AND ERIE STREETS, 1838.

DRAWN AND ENGRAVED BY J. W. ORR. EARLIEST KNOWN VIEW OF THE WEED AND WHITE BUILDING SITES.



BROWN'S BUILDINGS, MAIN AND SENECA STREETS.

BUILT, 1858. TORN DOWN, MAY, 1912. SITE NOW OCCUPIED BY MARINE NATIONAL BANK.

soon discovered. Dr. Ebenezer Johnson, who was engaged in the banking business, presented me with a check with our endorsement on it, and said, 'I suppose that is your endorsement.' I replied that it was not, for we had never endorsed one dollar for Mr. Rathbun. 'Well,' he says, 'I think you will have to stand it.' I went to the safe and took out a check for \$500, endorsed by him. I said, 'I suppose that is your endorsement?' He looked very much surprised and said, 'If that does not beat the devil!' He did not endorse for Mr. Rathbun. 'Well,' I replied, 'I think you will have to stand it.'

"A few minutes later Mr. Merrill B. Sherwood came in, and taking off his hat, exhibited a large number of checks, with our name endorsed on them. Turning them over, he says, 'These are your endorsements.' I told him I never endorsed for Mr. Rathbun. 'Well,' he says, 'that surprises me. I gave him that \$10,000 only a few days ago.'

"So we all found that our loans were made on forged paper entirely. Soon we began to receive from New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Cincinnati, notices of protest, until the amount was over \$200,000. We wrote the parties that we had not endorsed anything for Rathbun and we were never called on for one dollar of this large amount. Mr. Rathbun made an assignment to Joseph Clary, who paid us a small dividend on our \$10,000.

"The first exposure was in this way and then the rest followed. Mr. Charles M. Reed, of Erie, was in Philadelphia at the old United States bank, and the president, Nicholas Biddle, said to him: 'I believe we have a note on which you are an endorser, which will fall due in a few days.' 'Ah! indeed, let me see it, if you please,' said Reed. So Mr. Biddle presented him with a note, made by Benjamin Rathbun, for \$50,000, endorsed with the names of

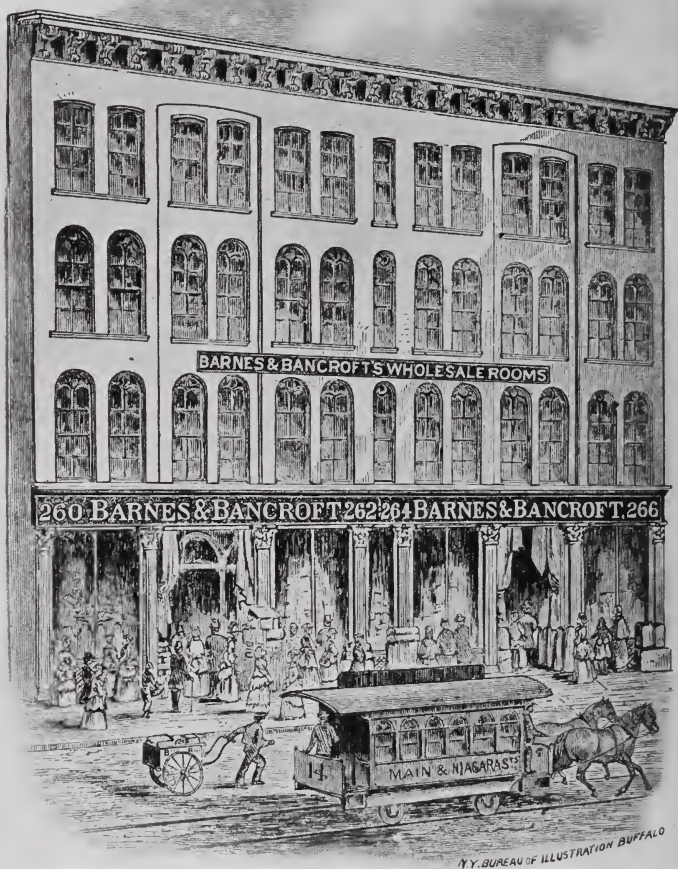


THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC, AS IT WAS IN 1868.
 FOR MANY YEARS BUFFALO'S BEST THEATER. PRIOR TO 1868, KNOWN AS THE
 METROPOLITAN; OPENED OCT. 15, 1852, ON THE SITE OF
 THE FARMER'S HOTEL.



THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC AS RECONSTRUCTED, 1893.

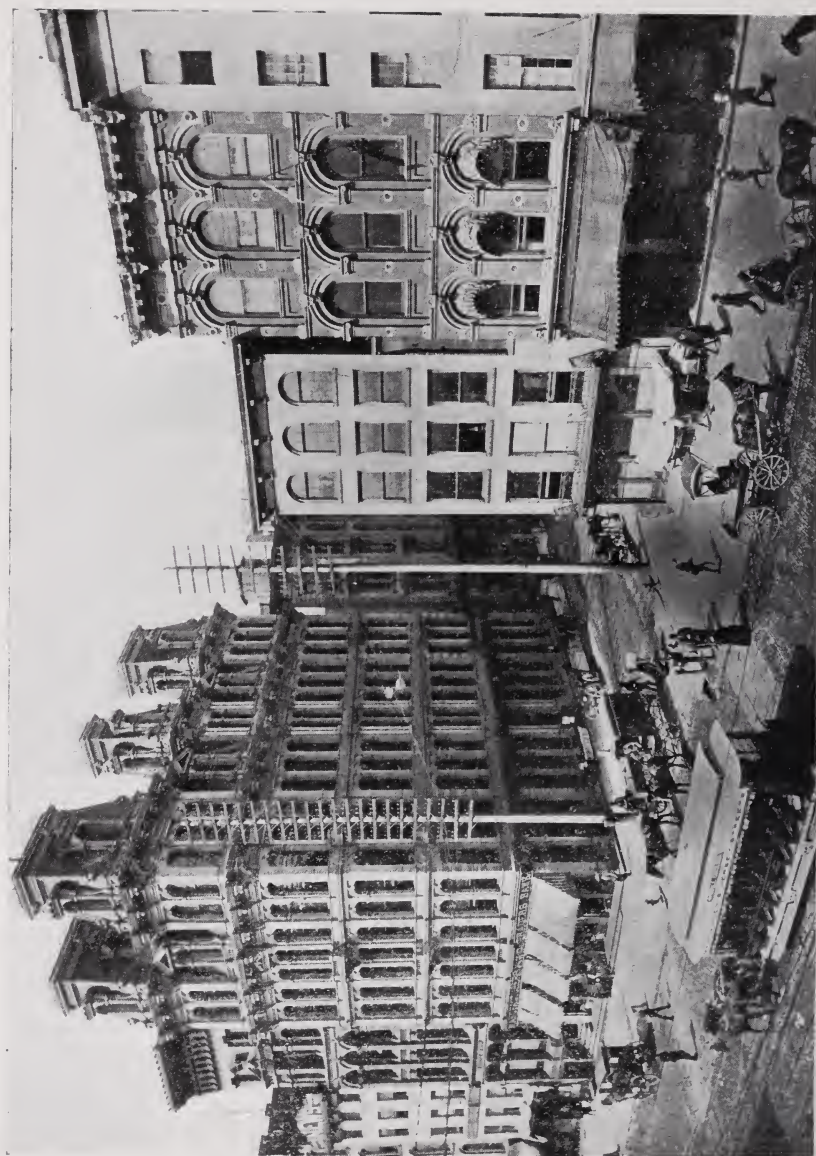
STILL STANDING, MUCH ALTERED.



STORE OF BARNES & BANCROFT, 260-266 MAIN STREET.
AS IT WAS IN 1871; REBUILT WITH IRON FRONT, 1875.



HAMLIN BLOCK, STORE OF BARNES, BANCROFT & CO., 1875.
MUCH ENLARGED IN 1882; BURNED FEB. 1, 1888; SITE NOW OCCUPIED BY
SWEENEY & CO.'S STORE.



CORNER OF MAIN AND WEST SENECA STREETS, PRIOR TO 1904.

AT THE EXTREME LEFT, THE OLD "NEWS" OFFICE, REPLACED BY NEW BUILDING, 1897; THE MARINE BANK AND HAYEN BUILDING, SINCE REMODELED. ON UPPER CORNER, BUILDINGS TORN DOWN IN 1894.

Charles M. Reed, of Erie; Judge Love, Dr. Ebenezer Johnson, Mr. Joseph Clary, Albert H. Tracy, Hiram Pratt, and others, who were well known as prominent business men of Buffalo. 'Well,' said Mr. Reed, 'I will see about it.' And I suppose he told the president that he did not endorse the note; for he came to Buffalo and called these gentlemen together and laid the matter before them. They all denied having signed any such paper. They sent for Mr. Rathbun and the whole matter was brought out, but they did not know that the forgeries extended any further than this note. So they got Mr. Rathbun to make an assignment, securing the payment of this note, but they were very much surprised to find that nearly all the paper he had out was forged. Mr. Elijah Ford was one of the assignees and the business was closed up honestly and fairly so far as the assignees were concerned. Mr. Rathbun provided for the payment in full of all the men in his employ and all persons to whom he was indebted in the city and country about for building materials. Mr. Benjamin Rathbun and Lyman Rathbun were arrested that evening and put in jail. Lyman Rathbun escaped from jail in a few days and it was supposed he went to Texas. He was never overtaken and never tried, nor seen in Buffalo afterwards. Rathbun Allen, Benjamin's nephew, also escaped and was not ever tried or seen in Buffalo again. Benjamin Rathbun was kept in jail for a year or more, and was finally tried and sentenced to Auburn for five years. He was pardoned by the Governor a few days before the expiration of his time."

Another very active person in the business, not mentioned by Mr. Farnham, was Lyman Rathbun Howlett, also a nephew of Benjamin Rathbun. Howlett's part in the forgeries has been graphically told by Samuel M. Welch



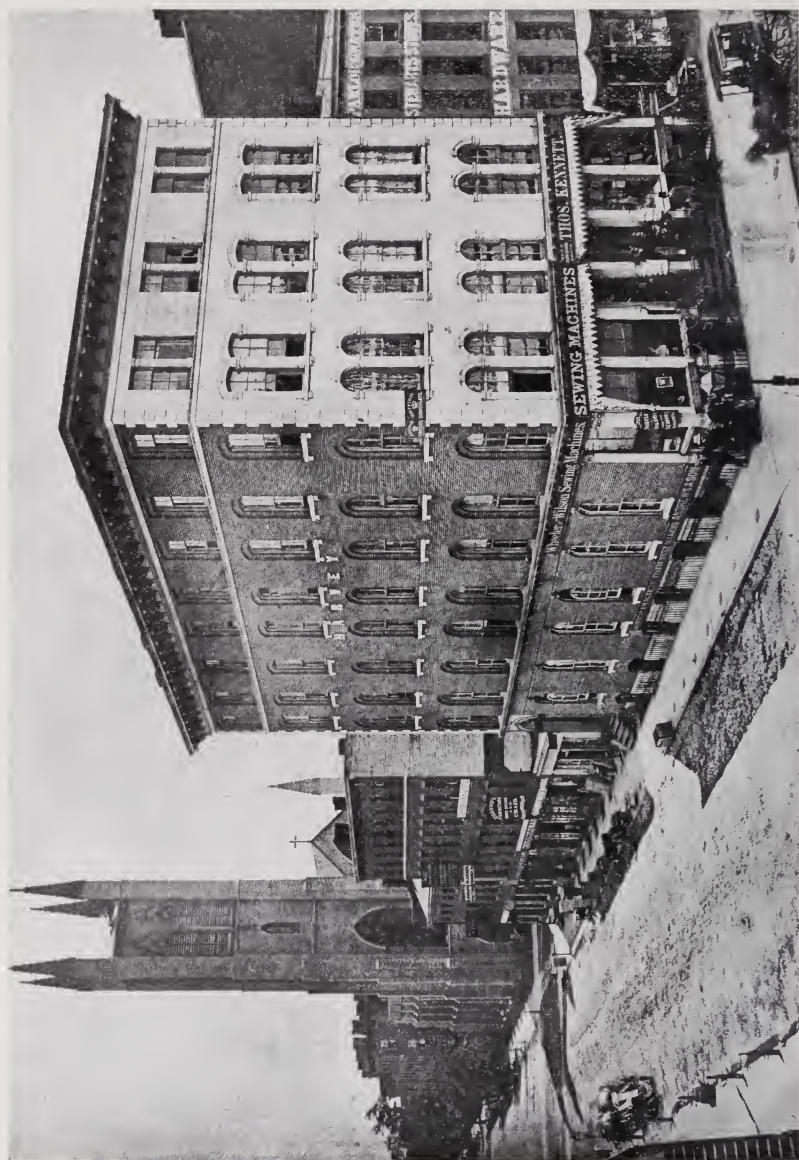
MAIN STREET, WEST SIDE, LOOKING NORTH FROM SENECA, PRIOR TO 1894.

THE TWO BUILDINGS AT THE LEFT WERE TORN DOWN 1894 FOR THE PRESENT BANK OF BUFFALO. THE GRANITE BLOCK, BUILT 1836, WAS TAKEN DOWN FOR ERECTION OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, 1905.

in his "Home History." When the crash came, Howlett disappeared. Lyman Rathbun disappeared also, but was afterwards heard of in Texas, then not in the United States. Rathbun Allen was arrested in Ohio, charged as accessory to the Rathbun forgeries. His trial was set for September, but he turned State's evidence and his uncle afterwards forgave him.

So Benjamin Rathbun, the Builder of Buffalo, went to jail. He was locked up as a felon in the very jail which he had built! which came to be known as the "old" jail on Batavia street, in use until 1876.

Reports of Rathbun's affairs obviously received, at once, a wild exaggeration. The *Angelica Republican*, in August, 1836, informed its readers that at the time of his failure, Mr. Rathbun "had in his employ about 3000 workmen," adding, "his average daily payments were \$60,000"! On a basis of two dollars a day they would have been \$6,000, for 3,000 workmen; but there is nothing to show that he ever had so many on his payrolls. A copy of the petition in chancery, owned by the Buffalo Historical Society (it formerly belonged, by the way, to Guy H. Salisbury, before whose uncle, H. A. Salisbury, Commissioner of Deeds, etc., it was executed, Aug. 2, 1836), states that at the time of making assignment, "the said Rathbun had upwards of one thousand three hundred laborers and mechanics in his employ." Governor Seward in refusing an application for pardon in May, 1840, stated that Rathbun had in his employ in 1836, 2,000 laborers, besides 96 agents, assistants, cashiers, superintendents, foremen, measurers, clerks and overseers. His daily disbursements exceeded ten thousand dollars. He had the control of several banks, and kept a financial agency in Buffalo and another in the City of New York.

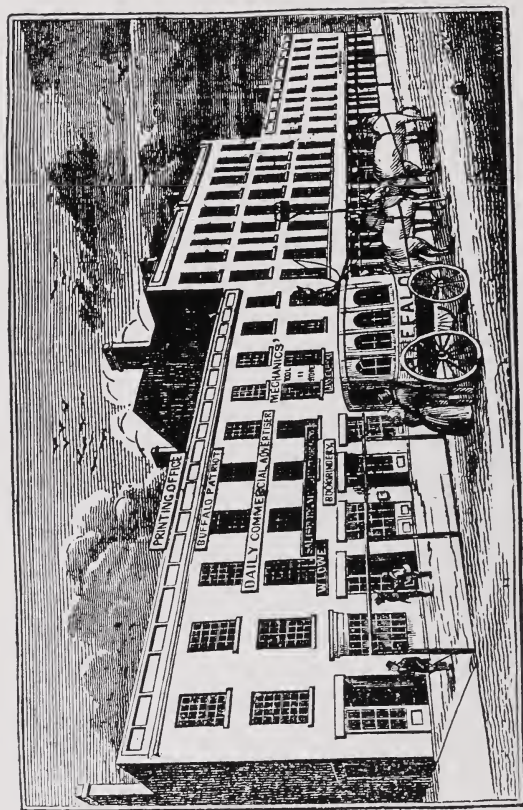


LOOKING EAST ON SWAN FROM MAIN, IN THE '60'S.

THE OLD BUILDINGS AT SWAN AND WASHINGTON, REPLACED BY THE LEWIS BLOCK, 1874. ST. JOHN'S CHURCH ON THE SITE OF THE PRESENT STATLER'S HOTEL.

When the discovery of the crimes was made it was found that forged paper representing more than a million and a half of dollars was in circulation, and this was estimated to be less than a third of the whole amount for which false paper had been issued by Rathbun and his relatives. These sums, vast today, were relatively much more vast in 1836. The financial operations involved in Rathbun's upbuilding of Buffalo affected the money market throughout the whole country; but contrary to expectation, Rathbun's downfall carried no one else with him. As an Albany correspondent of the *Buffalo Journal* (Aug. 26, 1836) put it: "While Rathbun was selling all the best names in your city, at 5 per cent. per month, none could blame us for doubting your solvency, as a whole, or for believing that if Rathbun failed the town must go with him. Judge then of our surprise to see him fall, assign his estate for the benefit of his creditors, and become, himself, an inmate of a prison, upon a criminal charge, and yet not draw after him a single business man of your city. After his fall we waited day after day, in hourly expectation of a universal crash; for although some of his paper was supposed to bear forged endorsers, yet we still supposed that he had actual endorsements enough to settle wide-spread ruin upon Buffalo—but time passed and the crash came not; and by degrees confidence that it would not, began to prevail, and has now become quite general."

The shock of Rathbun's collapse was the greater because his extraordinary building operations had not only drawn wide attention to him, but his general conduct of business had gained for him universal confidence and admiration. A traveler wrote from Buffalo, June 15, 1836, to the *Lansingburgh Gazette*: "Rathbun is the same to Buffalo that Astor is to New York. He has erected a hotel that for size

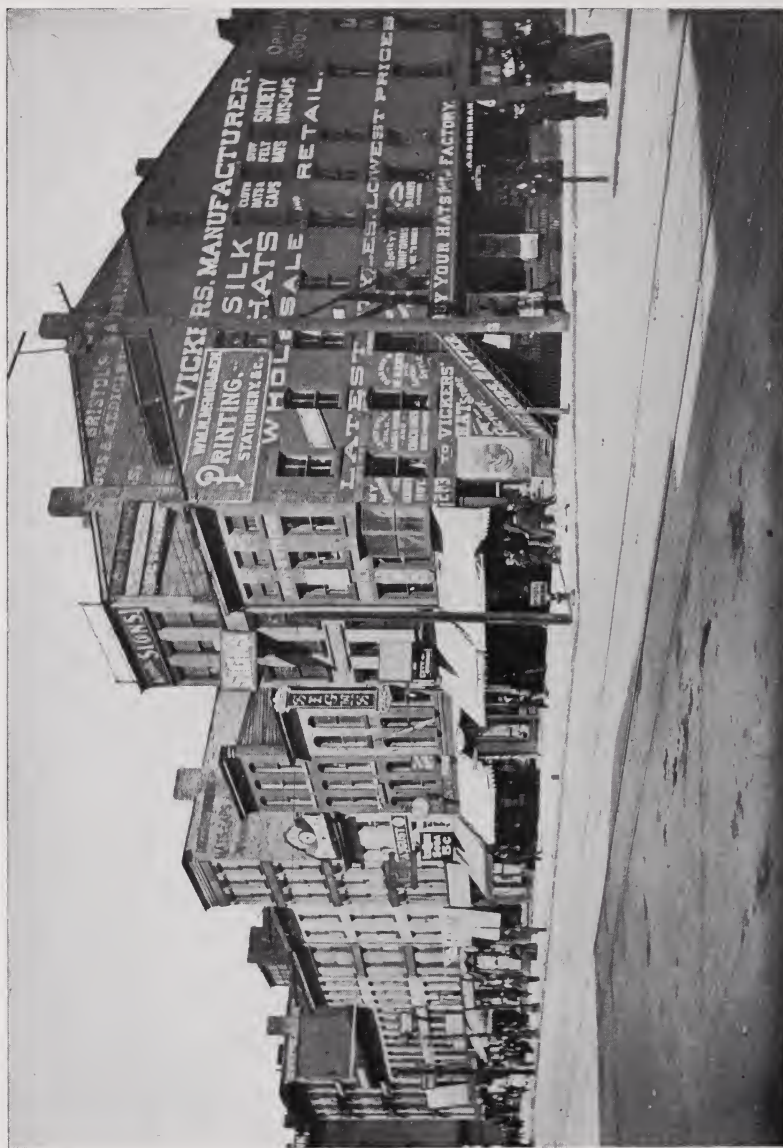


VIEW OF ELLICOTT BLOCK IN 1838.—FROM A WOODCUT BY JOHN W. ORR.
BUILT ABOUT 1833 BY COL. BLOSSOM AND LEWIS F. ALLEN.

and beauty will compete with Astor's mammoth; and he has commenced clearing the ground for one still larger, so that the prospect of this city becoming the second in the State is very flattering." Another writer styled him "the Girard of the West."

One is amazed at the multiplicity of his projects, more in keeping with a city of half a million than a little town of 16,000, which was about what Buffalo had in 1836. He put up every kind of building in Buffalo. He was proprietor of the most famous hotel west of New York, to which he brought thousands of guests, by his own stage lines. He was the largest merchant in this part of the country, and he carried on business on department-store principles, long before that phrase was used, or the system it stands for had become a recognized institution. Among his now forgotten projects was the laying out of a street, 50 feet wide, from Buffalo Creek to Lake Erie, in a line with Washington street. The Common Council, May 21, 1836, approved, and voted that it should be called Ferry street.

In May, 1836, Benjamin Rathbun and the Messrs. Augustus and Peter B. Porter had plotted and surveyed the village of Niagara Falls. J. P. Haines was the practical surveyor, and his map of that date includes the territory from the river to Pine street on the north and to Fifteenth street and Portage road on the east. Most of the included lands had been in the hands of the Messrs. Porter for thirty years. Improvements had been slow, but in this eventful year of 1836 the proprietors, in association with Rathbun, planned many things: the erection of new saw mills, the opening of stone quarries, of brick yards, and other enterprises. The preceding year he had built a four-story brick extension to the old Eagle Hotel, at the Falls, and this spring he had laid the foundation for a much greater hotel



BUILDINGS TORN DOWN FOR ERECTION OF ELLCOTT SQUARE BUILDING, 1894-5.

LOOKING UP MAIN FROM SWAN STREET.

and projected many new buildings for the Falls. The prospectus for the auction sale of village lots, issued in May, named August 2d as the day when the sales would begin, and one story is to the effect that he was attending such sale when called away, put into a carriage and driven to Buffalo. The Buffalo papers do not state this, but briefly record the assignment. The *Commercial Advertiser* of Aug. 4th, after brief and obviously restrained comments, said: "Mr. Rathbun and his brother, Lyman Rathbun, were last night secured and committed to jail for further examination."

The sale of Rathbun's personal estate was advertised for September 12th. The inventories are of much interest. His stores, shops and warehouses were full of dry goods, groceries, hardware, building material of all sorts, grain and provisions. There was upwards of a million feet of pine and whitewood boards and plank; hundreds of cords of stone, nearly two million brick, and a great store of tools for his workmen of all sorts, including everything for building wagons, coaches and railroad cars. He had "between 30 and 40 splendid Stage Coaches," and "about 200 of the finest Horses in any stage establishment in America, with the mail stage routes traveled by them, and running over five or six roads from Buffalo." He had 50 wagons, and sleighs, two canal boats, two large omnibuses, and pleasure carriages, barouches, light wagons, etc., enough to equip the greatest of metropolitan liverys. He had a thousand barrels of salt, great store of corn, coal and other commodities. On September 24th, while the sale was in progress, Mr. Rathbun was bailed out of jail, a \$60,000 bond being given. This was to secure his assistance in settling with creditors. Rathbun Allen was also let out on \$14,000 bail. Benjamin was re-arrested, October 1, on



SOUTH SIDE OF SOUTH DIVISION STREET, WASHINGTON TO MAIN.

BUILDINGS TORN DOWN FOR ERECTION OF ELLICOTT SQUARE, 1895.

an indictment for forgery by the grand jury of Genesee County.

On the first trial, begun at Batavia March 29, 1837, the jury failed to agree. On the second trial, September, 1838, he was sentenced to five years at hard labor in Auburn prison.

Rathbun's deed of assignment, dated Aug. 2, 1836, named Hiram Pratt, Lewis F. Allen, Joseph Clary, Thomas C. Love and Millard Fillmore as assignees. Mr. Fillmore and Mr. Love resigned as assignees before the estate was settled. The schedules of Rathbun's real estate showed a valuation of \$2,237,150 and of his personal property of \$854,500. The personal property actually realized only \$115,000. Mr. Clary took upon himself the whole burden of the assignment, and became the chief, if not the sole acting assignee. Mr. Fillmore, in a sketch of Joseph Clary, wrote: "Mr. Rathbun had in his employ at the time of his failure some 2,500 workmen of all nations and tongues, and they were among the preferred creditors, but fearing they were to be cheated out of their pay, they threatened to plunder Rathbun's stores, and the assignees supposing that there were assets sufficient to pay the preferred class, paid off the workmen to prevent a riot; but it turned out that there was only enough to pay about fifty cents on the dollar to the preferred creditors, and then an effort was made to charge the assignees with what they had paid the workmen." It took Mr. Clary six years to close up the business, but finally he was granted by the State a "decree of exoneration and discharge."

In the spring of 1840 Governor Seward received a petition, signed by several thousand citizens of the State, praying for Rathbun's pardon. In a long and admirably reasoned decision, under date of May 27, 1840, the Governor



MAIN AND SOUTH DIVISION STREETS; ELLICOTT SQUARE SITE PRIOR TO 1895.

reviewed the testimony. Great effort had been made—had always been made, since the crash came—to show that Rathbun was ignorant of the forgeries carried on by his brother and nephews. Governor Seward, however, saw in the evidence distinct proofs of the senior Rathbun's guilt. "They leave no doubt that if he did not initiate his younger brothers and nephews, he led them deeper into crime, and continued to avail himself of all their plans, skill, management, adroitness and deception, until the sudden exposure rendered these unavailing." Two years later application for pardon was again made through S. S. Case of Buffalo, then a member of the Assembly, by "several respectable citizens" of Buffalo and Batavia, "together with more than fifty members of the Legislature"; and again the Governor took the ground that "Executive clemency would have an injurious effect by impairing the public confidence in the firm and equal administration of justice." Rathbun served practically his full term, a few days only being deducted, so that he really was "pardoned out," though it is said, not by his own request..

Mr. Rathbun soon went to New York, where he opened Rathbun's Hotel on lower Broadway, which he conducted with fair success for many years. From 1861 to 1870 he conducted the Broadway Hotel, Broadway at Forty-second street. At his death, in 1873, he was said to have a property of \$75,000 or upwards.

A writer of 1842 pictures Rathbun's case with more of sympathy, if not of justice, than many who have since attempted to tell his story. "Possessing a powerful and ambitious mind, and a vigorous though not robust frame of body, he was enabled to conceive and carry on a scheme of improvements, as gigantic and comprehensive in its extent, as it was lamentable and unfortunate to him in its



NORTH SIDE OF SWAN STREET, WASHINGTON TO MAIN: ELLICOTT SQUARE SITE PRIOR TO 1895.

result. The streets were filled with his men, teams and materials; his store-houses, work-shops and stables formed as it were, villages of themselves; and he, a plain, frugal, unobtrusive but active and talented man, was the 'Girard of the West.' Industrious, persevering, indefatigable, he had but one great fault: he trusted too implicitly in others."

Among numerous Rathbun manuscripts owned by the Buffalo Historical Society are a number of letters written by him in his last years. Some of them relate to his sojourn at Toledo, O., in 1818, "when there was not a dwelling-house" in the place. Others speak of his hotels and work in New York. A most touching letter, written on the occasion of Mrs. Rathbun's death, Oct. 6, 1871, reveals his grief and loneliness: "We have lived together almost sixty years, with the strongest affection for each other. . . . I have no one to live for, neither child nor grandchild." After his wife's death he sold the Broadway Hotel, and went to live with a cousin, Robert C. Rathbone—"whose father was a twin brother to my father," but who, as not infrequently happens, had acquired a different spelling for his name—at Washington Heights (or Fort Washington), north of the city, and there he made his home until his death, July 20, 1873.

None of the letters preserved by this society contains any reference to his Buffalo experiences, but one of them, Dec. 2, 1872, has the following passage:

"I suppose my friend, you are aware that I am an old man. I was born in Ashford, Windham Co., State of Connecticut, December 1st, 1790. Consequently I was 82 years old yesterday. I was nine years old when General Washington died. I remember the announcement of his death as of yesterday. I have lived under every President these United States ever had. I was a passenger from Albany



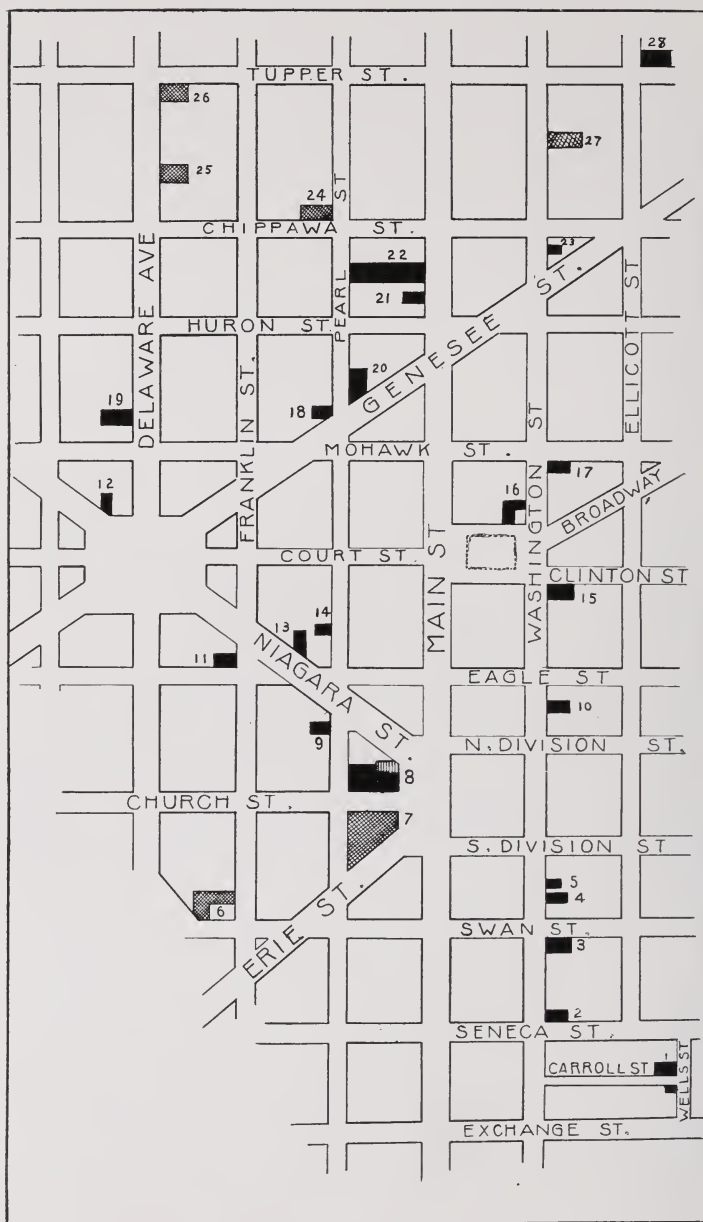
A WELL-KNOWN SHOP IN OLD ELLICOTT SQUARE.

ERECTED ABOUT 1835, TORN DOWN 1895.

to New York on the first vessel ever moved by steam in the world, when Robert Fulton the inventor was his own Indianeer." So Mr. Rathbun wrote, obviously meaning "engineer." Later on in the same letter he drops into poetry—more accurately, into verse—but 'tis only an old man's musings, and may as well be passed over.

Other Rathbun papers, of quite different stamp, the Historical Society also has: one letter of 1823, regarding the line of stages which he proposed to establish; an original subscription paper, circulated in 1839 to raise funds to pay certain counsel fees in the Rathbun case; and over \$28,000 worth of Rathbun's notes—the reader will please understand that their face value is meant, as most of them are the forged issues. Over \$26,000 worth of them represent a loss sustained by Mr. Chas. M. Reed of Erie, on Rathbun's account.

Most interesting of all, in the historical view, is a document of 68 foolscap pages, all in Rathbun's writing. It has been in the keeping of the Buffalo Historical Society since 1872, and earlier was owned by the Young Men's Association. Some unknown hand has given it the caption: "Confession of Benj. Rathbun." More accurately, it is a statement of Rathbun's affairs, by himself. Its importance, as a chapter of Buffalo history, entitles it to publication in full; to which end it is destined, in a succeeding volume of these Publications.



LOCATION OF OLD DOWN-TOWN CHURCHES.

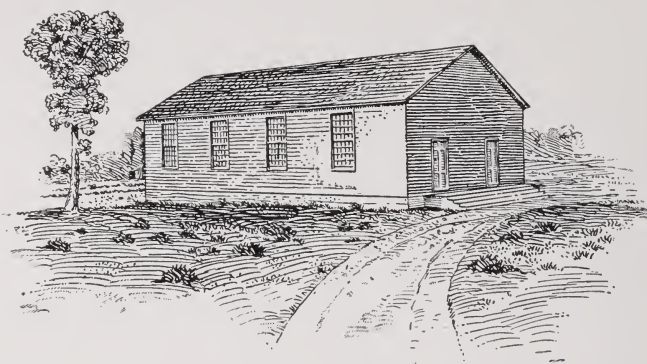
CROSS-SHADING INDICATES EDIFICES STILL IN USE AS CHURCHES. OTHERS ARE SHOWN IN SOLID BLACK.

THE OLD-TIME DOWN-TOWN CHURCHES

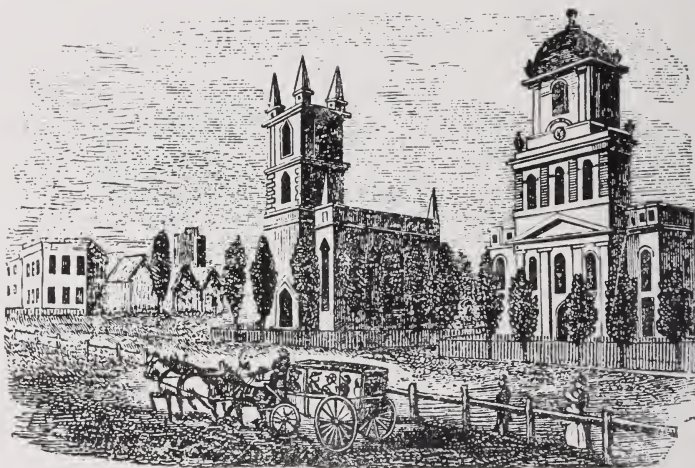
Nothing marks more certainly the emergence of a city from villagehood than the destruction of its earlier churches. At first they are built in the heart of things, because the people are there. When the heart of the town gets commercial, and perhaps harder, the churches move out towards the periphery, where the people live. But sentiment and affection cling to the old sites, and love to recall the associations of the past.

The down-town churches of Buffalo have nearly all moved away. How many they were, and where they were, is shown on a sketch of the older streets. In the area between Exchange and Tupper, Delaware and Ellicott, there have been twenty-eight churches. In that area there are now but six. On the map the vanished churches are shown in black, those still active, line-shaded. These are St. Joseph's Roman Catholic (6), St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal (7), Asbury Methodist (24), Calvary Presbyterian (25), Delaware-avenue Methodist (26), and St. Michael's Roman Catholic (27). Of course others are met with if we go a little further out; but the map is the area of the old down-town churches. One thing it shows is, that on the east side of Washington street, from Seneca to Chippewa, there have been eight churches. Today there is none.

The history of these churches is elsewhere recorded and preserved. Here there is room for only the most meager notes.



FIRST BUILDING OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
ON THE ERIE COUNTY BANK SITE, 1823-1827. FROM A DRAWING
MADE PRIOR TO 1877.

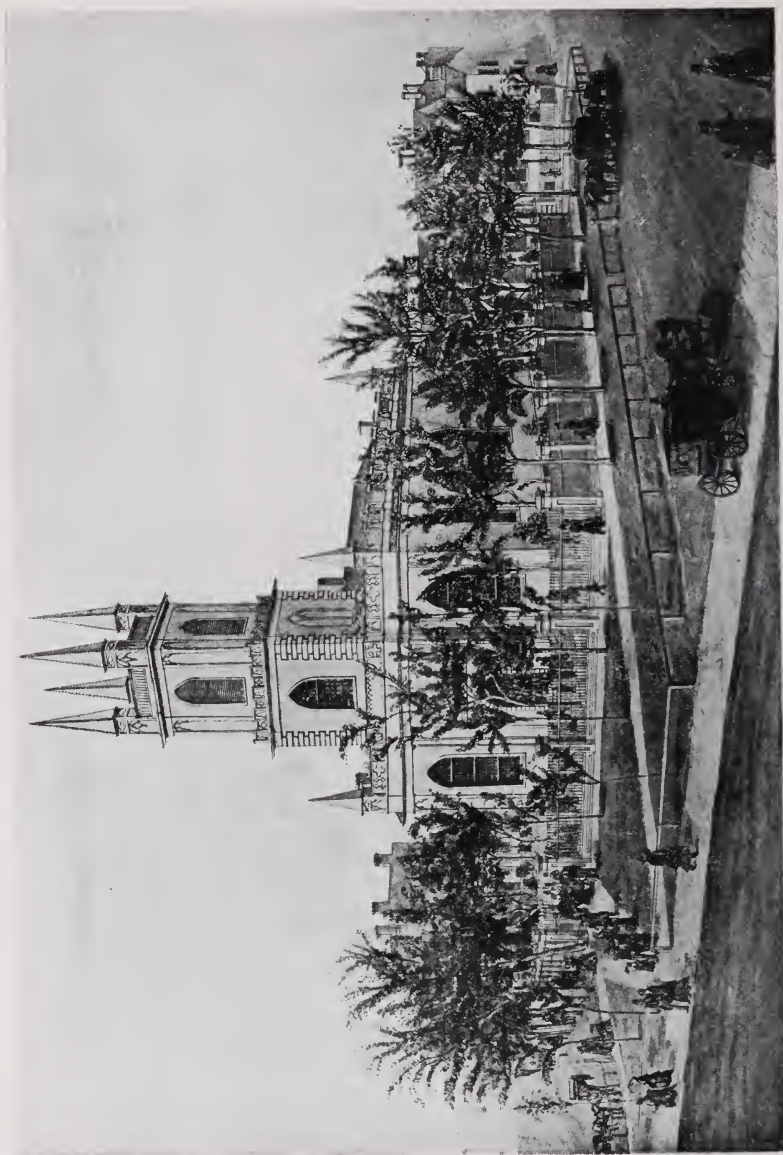


THE CHURCHES, ST. PAUL'S AND OLD FIRST, AS PICTURED
IN BUCKINGHAM'S "AMERICA," 1839.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

The first church building in Buffalo was erected by the Methodists, on the west side of Pearl street, a little south of Niagara street (9). Some records say, east side of Franklin, which amounts to much the same thing. It was 35 by 25 feet in size, was built in 48 days, and dedicated Jan. 24, 1819. These facts are clear, as are also the records which state that the Presbyterians in 1823 built a little frame church on a part of the site later (1827) occupied by the brick church known as "the Old First," and now by the Erie County Bank Building (8). Then confusion arises. Some records have it that the first Methodist church was used (on the old Rink site) until 1828, when it was moved up to the site of the present Mutual Life Building (14). Other records state that the first Presbyterian church, after the brick church was completed in 1827, was moved across Pearl street and used by the Methodists. If so, it superseded their original church. It is plain that in 1821 the Methodists secured title to property north of Niagara, running through from Pearl to Franklin, on a part of which they built the Niagara-street Methodist church (13), begun 1832, dedicated 1835. It became Temple Beth Zion in 1865, and was taken down, 1890, for the erection of the Masonic building now on the site.

The first little Presbyterian church, sold to the Methodists in 1828, appears to have been used by them until 1835, when they gave it to the German United Evangelical St. Peter's society, which moved it to Genesee and Hickory streets. This German society, in 1850, bought the original wooden edifice of St. Paul's Episcopal society (built 1819, where the present St. Paul's stands), and moved it out to Genesee and Hickory, where it was used until replaced by the present building, dedicated in 1878. When the wooden St. Paul's came, the little old Presbyterian chapel migrated

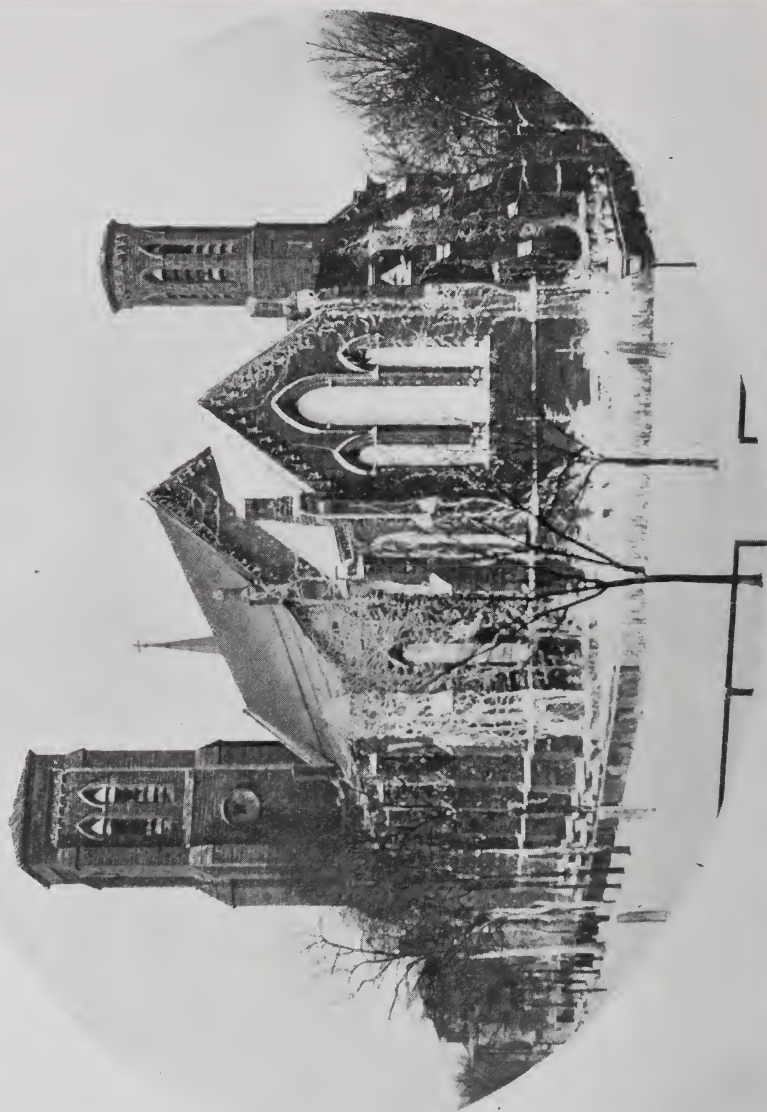


ST. PAUL'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH, AS IT APPEARED IN 1849.
FROM AN ORIGINAL PAINTING BY WILLIAM MILLAR, OWNED BY G. HUNTER BARTLETT, M. D.



THE FIRST ST. PAUL'S IN ITS LAST DAYS.

AFTER ITS REMOVAL TO GENESEE AND HICKORY STREETS, 1850. IT WAS THERE
ENLARGED, AND IN 1877 REPLACED BY THE PRESENT EDIFICE OF THE
GERMAN UNITED EVANGELICAL ST. PETER'S SOCIETY.



ST. PAUL'S BEFORE THE SPIRES WERE BUILT.

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN IN 1867 BY W. M. KNIGHT, NOW OWNED BY MR. GEORGE ALFRED STRINGER.

to Walnut street. Its last service was as ice-house for a brewery, and in 1882 it was burned. The sketch of it here given, from a water-color made prior to 1877, may have been drawn "from life," but no photograph of it is known.

No 2, on the map, shows the location of the first Baptist church, built 1829. After 1836, the old building was leased by the U. S. Government for a post-office, the church society, then known as the Washington-street Baptist, moving in that year to its new edifice just above Swan (4). In 1900 the society moved to its present location at North and North Pearl, and the old building became headquarters for the Salvation Army, until 1912, when it was rebuilt for business uses.

No. 1 was the Wells-street mission chapel, of which no picture has been found. Growing out of the Soldiers' Rest mission on Exchange street, in 1870 it removed to the southwest corner of Wells and Carroll, and in 1872, into a new chapel on the opposite, northwest corner (1). A regular church was organized in 1874. It burned Dec. 7, 1886.

No. 3, southeast corner of Swan and Washington, shows the site of St. John's Episcopal, a parish organized in 1845, the church begun in 1846 and completed in 1848. It was abandoned for church use, sold in 1903, and taken down in 1906, for the erection of Statler's Hotel.

No. 5 indicates the location of the First Universalist Church of Buffalo, built 1832. The congregation moved to a new building, Main above Huron (21) in 1866. The older house was put to various business uses before final demolition. The society, known as the Church of the Messiah, moved in 1892 to a new house of worship on North street; the old edifice had the usual vicissitudes of abandoned churches, finally giving way, 1897, to the present stores of Flint & Kent.



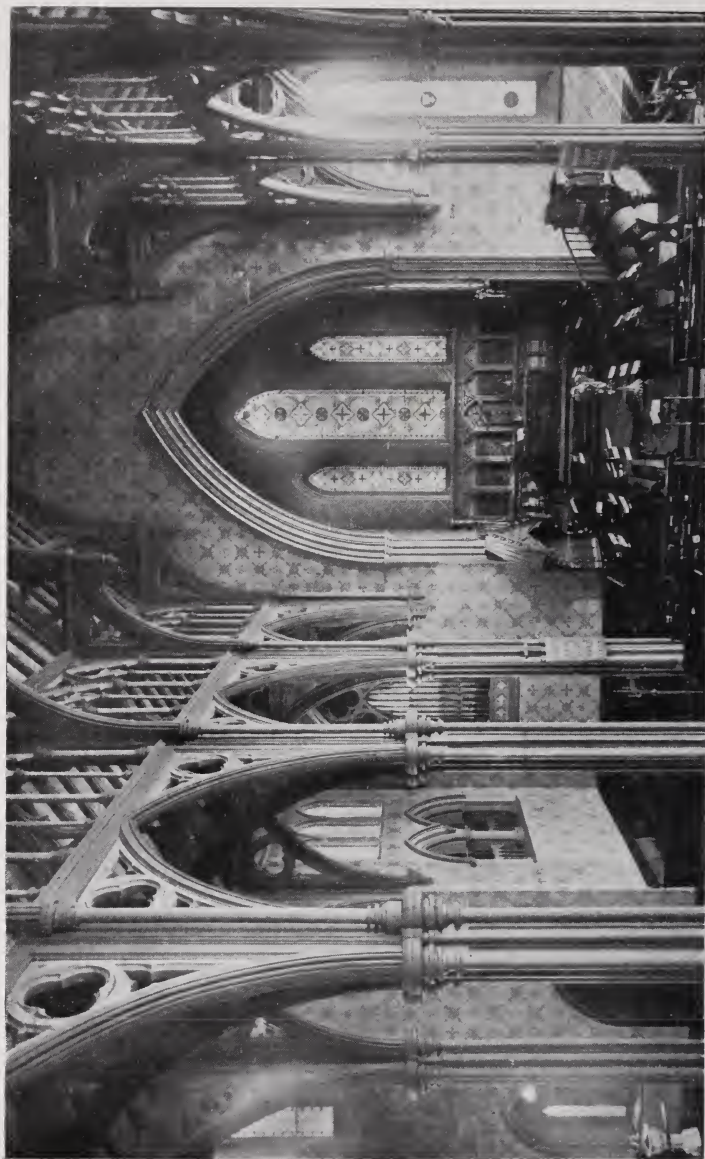
ST PAUL'S A GENERATION AGO.

AS IT APPEARED BEFORE THE FIRE OF MAY 10, 1888. AT THE RIGHT IS SEEN
A PART OF THE "OLD FIRST," DEMOLISHED 1890.

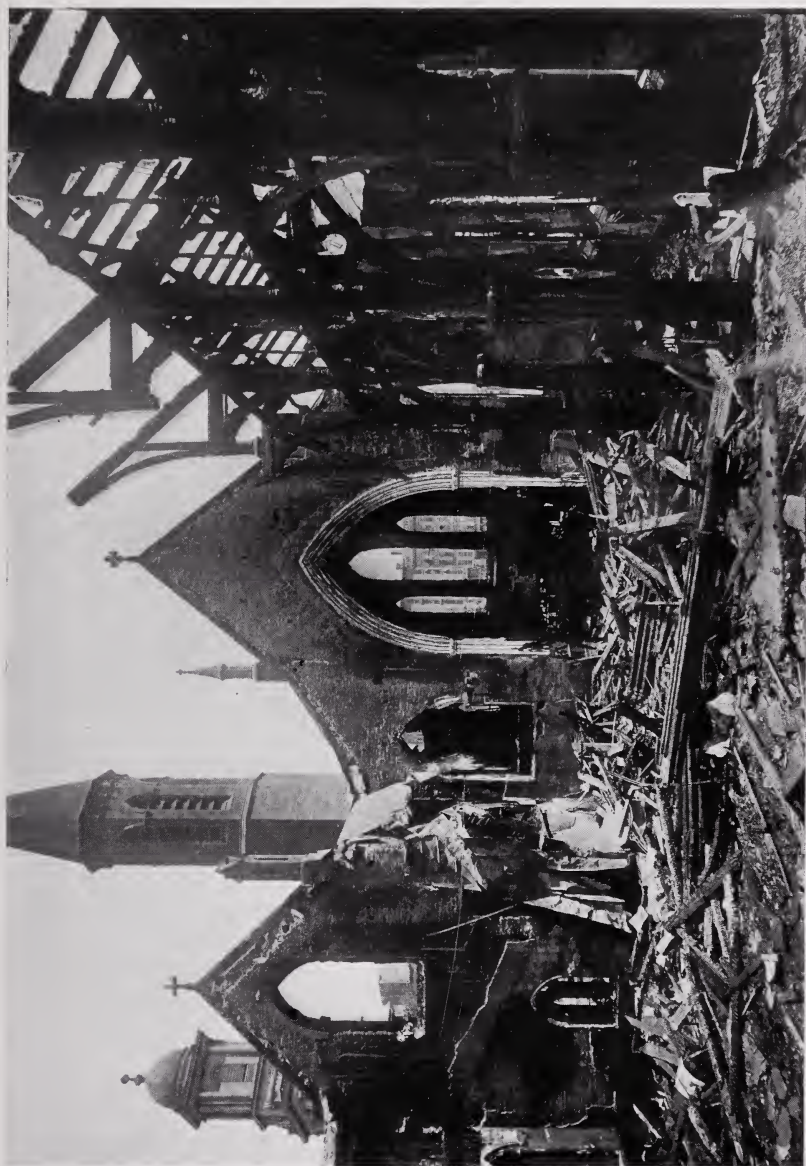
Speaking of abandoned churches, several of them have been very abandoned, after the withdrawal of the societies that gave them name and dignity. The United Presbyterian church on Washington near Eagle (10), bought by that society from the Lutherans in 1850, was used for church purposes until 1888; but the building stood for some years after, a place of cheap amusement, its basement a saloon. The concert-hall fate overtook the church of the United Evangelical St. Paul's society, on Washington between Genesee and Chippewa (23), built 1843, abandoned, for removal to a new edifice, in 1883. The present Lafayette theater is the remodeled Lafayette Presbyterian church (16), which was the successor of the Park church; the society's first building, on the present site, was erected in 1845. It was burned in 1850, and rebuilt. The structure which is now the theater dates from 1862. It was last used for church service May 10, 1896.

There were two other churches on Washington street: The French St. Peter's Roman Catholic, at Clinton street (15), built about 1844 and bought by the Catholics and consecrated to church use in 1850. It continued as St. Peter's until January, 1900, when the new church of St. Peter and Our Lady of Lourdes, at Main and Best streets, was dedicated, and the old building gave way to the Lafayette hotel. A long chapter could be written of its early history. It was known as Clinton Hall, it was a school, and it served as house of worship by turn for the Unitarians and the Baptists. President Cleveland recommended this site for the Buffalo Postoffice.

Trinity Episcopal church (17), Washington at Mohawk, was begun in the late '30's, though not used until 1842. Subsequent years brought some alterations, but the building was used by Trinity parish until 1885. For some years



ST. PAUL'S BEFORE THE FIRE OF MAY 10, 1888: INTERIOR, LOOKING TOWARD THE CHANCEL,
FROM A PHOTOGRAPH, COPYRIGHTED, 1884, BY G. HUNTER BARTLETT.



ST. PAUL'S AFTER THE FIRE OF MAY 10, 1888: LOOKING TOWARDS THE CHANCEL.

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN THE DAY AFTER THE FIRE.—COPYRIGHT, 1888, BY G. HUNTER BARTLETT.



AN EARLY VIEW OF THE COMMON IN FRONT OF THE CHURCHES.
NOW MUCH RESTRICTED AND KNOWN AS SHELTON SQUARE.

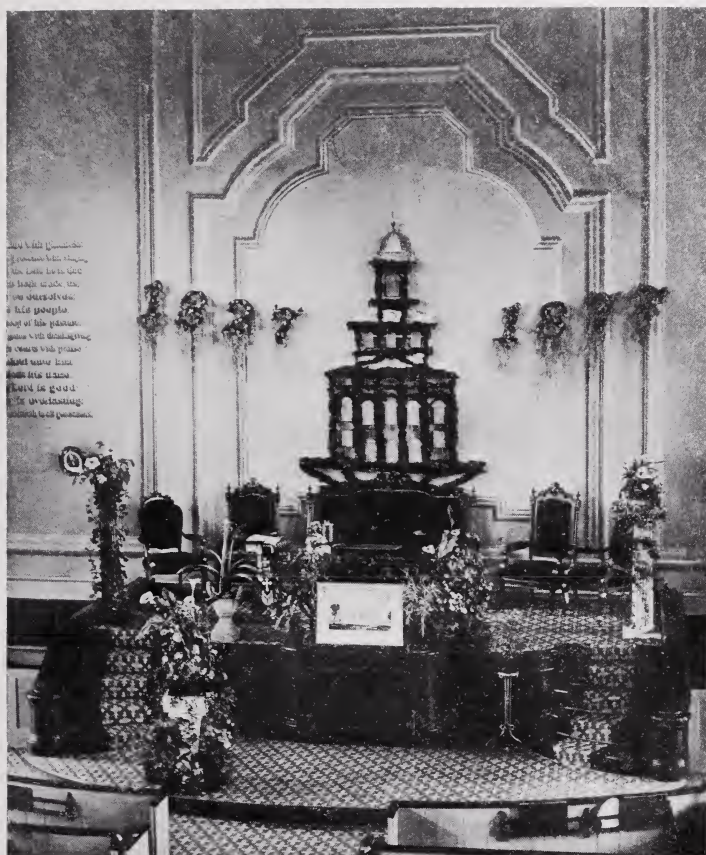


"THE CHURCHES," AS THEY APPEARED IN THE EARLY '80'S.

ST. PAUL'S AT THE LEFT, THE "OLD FIRST" AT THE RIGHT, ST. JOSEPH'S IN THE DISTANCE. CHURCH STREET WAS USED AS A STAND FOR CARTERS.



LOOKING OUT NIAGARA STREET, FROM IN FRONT OF THE "OLD FIRST," 1880.



PULPIT OF THE "OLD FIRST" PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

AS IT APPEARED AT THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL SERVICES, 1877. IN FRONT IS A SKETCH OF THE FIRST CHURCH ON THE SITE, 1823-27.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

thereafter the old building was occupied by an athletic club, and was a sporting rendezvous. The site is now covered by business buildings.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, BUILT 1829.

NORTHEAST CORNER, SENECA AND WASHINGTON STREETS. FROM A
WOODCUT BY J. W. ORR, 1838, WHEN THE BUILDING
WAS THE BUFFALO POSTOFFICE.

What has been known for many years as the Austin Building, No. 110 Franklin street, is the remodeled church (11), erected in 1833 by the First Unitarian Congregational Society. Benjamin Rathbun was the builder. It was en-



LOOKING UP WASHINGTON STREET FROM SWAN.
SHOWING THE WASHINGTON STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, AND BEYOND, THE FIRST
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH,



FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, WASHINGTON STREET.

AS IT WAS IN ITS LAST DAYS.



A BIT OF PICTURESQUE BUFFALO IN 1870.

ONE OF C. L. POND'S VIEWS FROM THE SPIRE OF ST. PAUL'S, LOOKING SOUTHEAST,
SHOWING ST. JOHN'S AND WASHINGTON STREET BAPTIST CHURCHES.



ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

BUILT 1846-8, TAKEN DOWN 1906. SITE NOW COVERED BY STATLER'S HOTEL.



THE PASSING OF OLD ST. JOHN'S.

TOWER OF THE FEDERAL BUILDING SEEN THROUGH A GREAT BROKEN WINDOW.
FROM A PHOTOGRAPH MADE IN MARCH, 1906.



THE NIAGARA STREET METHODIST CHURCH AS IT APPEARED IN THE '50'S.

FROM A LITHOGRAPH ADVERTISING THE AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY, OF WHICH WM. G. FARGO LATER BECAME PRESIDENT.
HIS HOME, WITH THE FLAG, ADJOINS THE CHURCH.



THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WASHINGTON STREET BELOW EAGLE.

BUILT BY A LUTHERAN SOCIETY IN THE '40'S; USED FOR CHURCH PURPOSES UNTIL 1888. AT THE RIGHT, PART OF THE TROWBRIDGE HOME, AT ONE TIME THE CITY CLUB.

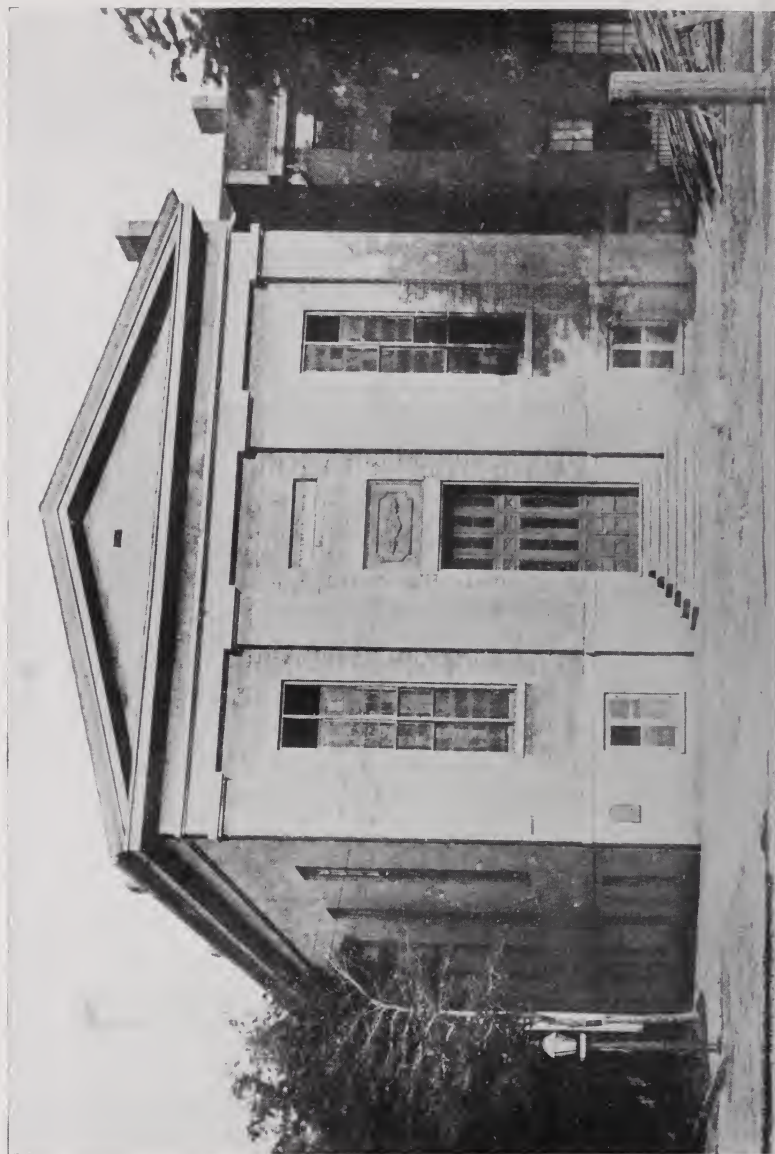


THE CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

AT GENESEE AND PEARL STREETS. BUILT 1850, TORN DOWN 1912.
SITE NOW OCCUPIED BY THE MAJESTIC THEATER.

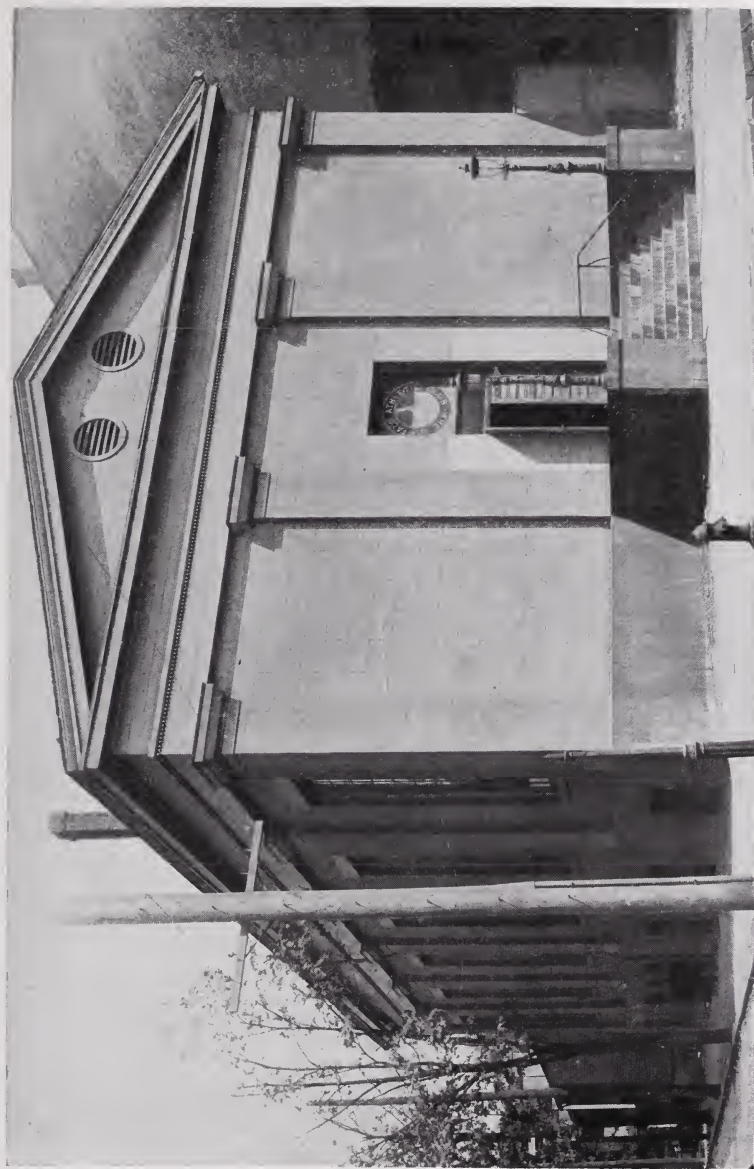


AN INTERIOR GLIMPSE OF THE CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN ITS LAST DAYS.



FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH, ERECTED 1833.

ABANDONED FOR CHURCH USES, 1880. REMODELED AND NOW KNOWN AS THE AUSTIN BUILDING, 110 FRANKLIN STREET.



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, MOHAWK AND WASHINGTON STREETS.
USED FOR WORSHIP, 1842 TO 1885.



MAIN STREET ABOVE HURON IN 1870.
SHOWING THE CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH BEFORE IT LOST ITS SPIRE (FIRE OF
OCT, 29, 1870), AND THE NORTH CHURCH BEYOND.



THE CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH IN ITS LAST DAYS.
CONVERTED INTO A BICYCLE SHOP AND RIDING SCHOOL. TORN DOWN 1897.
SITE OF FLINT & KENT'S STORE.



INTERIOR OF THE CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH, DEMOLISHED 1897.

larged in 1845 and again, after a fire, in 1859. In 1880 the society removed to a new church (19) on Delaware above Mohawk, known as the Church of Our Father. This building still stands, but has not been used for church purposes since 1906, when the society moved to a new edifice.

The Central Presbyterian church has had two down-town homes: first, at Genesee and Pearl, west side (18), built 1836; and second, on the northeast corner of the same streets (20), built 1852, and torn down 1912 for the erection of a theater.



RUINS OF THE CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH.

AFTER THE FIRE OF OCTOBER 29, 1870.



THE PEOPLE'S CHURCH (FORMERLY NIAGARA SQUARE BAPTIST) IN RECENT YEARS.
THE SIZER RESIDENCE AT THE RIGHT, WAS IN 1911 RECONSTRUCTED INTO AN OFFICE BUILDING.

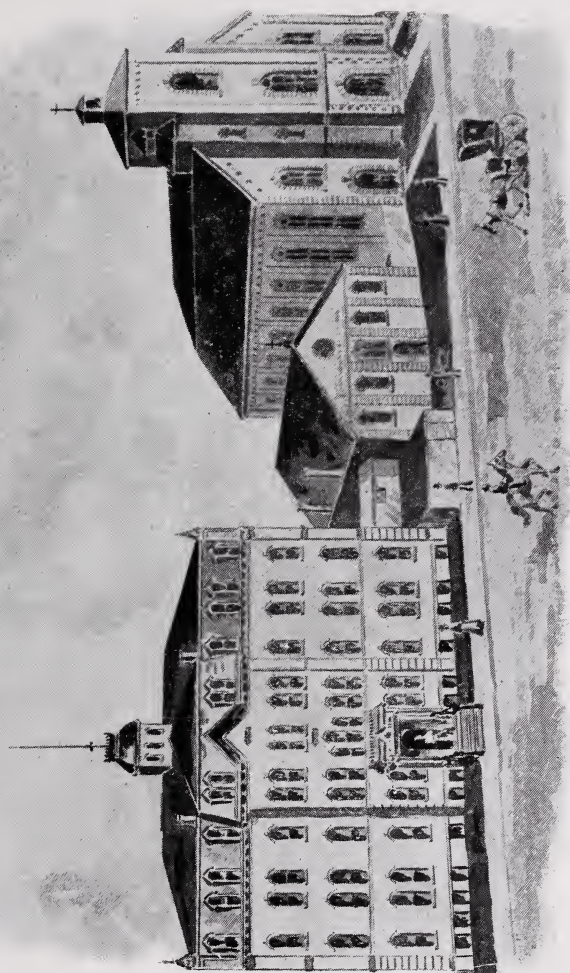


THE NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

BUILT 1846. DEDICATED DEC. 29, 1847. LAST SERVICE IN THIS EDIFICE
APRIL 17, 1904. DEMOLISHED SOON AFTER.



FRANCIS HAEFNER'S PICTURE-STORE, IN WHICH CANISIUS COLLEGE BEGAN ITS WORK,
AT NO. 222 ELLICOTT STREET. AT THE RIGHT, HOUSE OF CHRISTIAN WOLF, SHOEMAKER, BOUGHT
BY THE COLLEGE FOR PRIESTS' RESIDENCE.

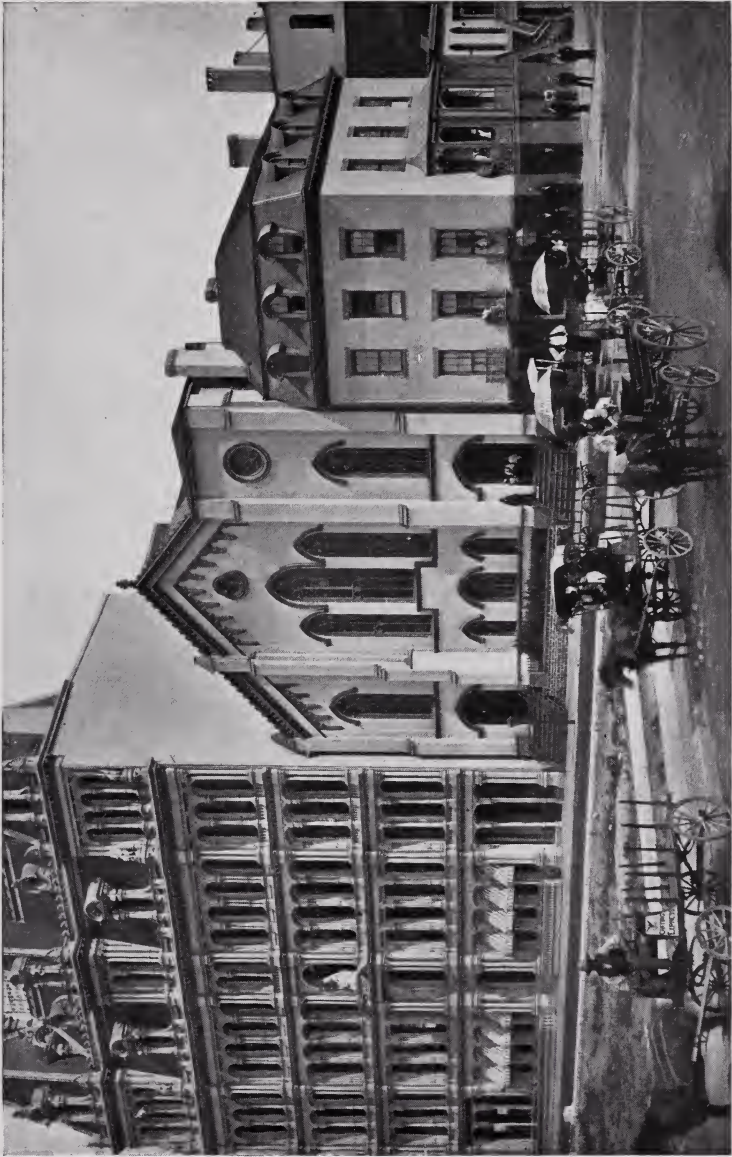


AN EARLY VIEW OF CANISIUS COLLEGE AND ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH.

OLD ST. MICHAEL'S (MIDDLE) WAS BUILT 1850, THE NEW EDIFICE, AT THE RIGHT, WAS DEDICATED JUNE 16, 1867; TOWERS HAVE SINCE BEEN ADDED. AT THE LEFT, CANISIUS COLLEGE, OPENED 1870.



THE FRENCH ST. PETER'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, 1844-1900.
SITE NOW COVERED BY THE LAFAYETTE HOTEL.



LAFAYETTE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, NOW CONVERTED INTO A THEATRE.
LAST USED FOR CHURCH SERVICE MAY 10, 1896.

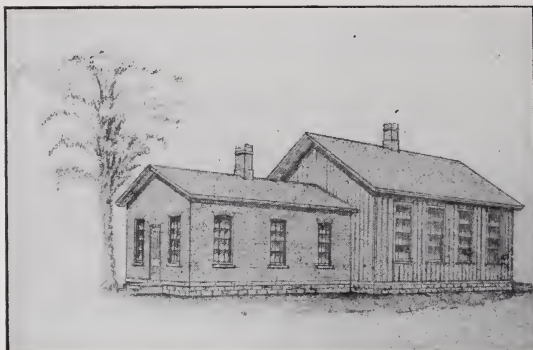


ST. LOUIS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (NIGHT-EFFECT).

MAIN AND ELWARD STREETS, BURNED MARCH 25, 1885.



RUINS OF ST. LOUIS CHURCH, AFTER THE FIRE OF MARCH 25, 1885.



OLIVET MISSION, DELAWARE ABOVE ALLEN.
BIRTHPLACE OF THE DELAWARE-AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH.



DELAWARE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH.
BUILT 1882-3 ON THE SITE OF OLIVET MISSION. SUCCEEDED BY THE
PRESENT CHURCH, 1894. THIS BUILDING, MUCH MODIFIED,
IS NOW A PART OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY CLUB.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

The North Presbyterian church (22) was erected on Main below Chippewa in 1847; when sold in 1904, the property ran through to Pearl street. This is now put to business uses, the society occupying a new church.

In 1830, a French Lutheran society built a church at the northeast corner of Ellicott and Tupper streets (28), consolidating in 1879 with the German Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, which used the old building until completion of its present edifice on Main near St. Paul.

No. 12 is the old church of the Niagara Square Baptist society, built 1848, sold to the First Congregational society in 1881; used by them until 1897, then by the People's church until 1910, since which date the building has been unused and for sale.



CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY (ENG. EVAN. LUTHERAN),

AT ELLICOTT AND TUPPER STREETS. BUILT 1830. ABANDONED
FOR CHURCH USE, 1905.



THE EARLIER BUILDING OF ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, AS IT APPEARED IN THE '80'S.
ERECTED ABOUT 1859, ON MARYLAND STREET; IN 1870, MOVED TO NIAGARA STREET, EAST SIDE, ABOVE MARYLAND. ABANDONED FOR
CHURCH USE, 1889. TORN DOWN, 1908.

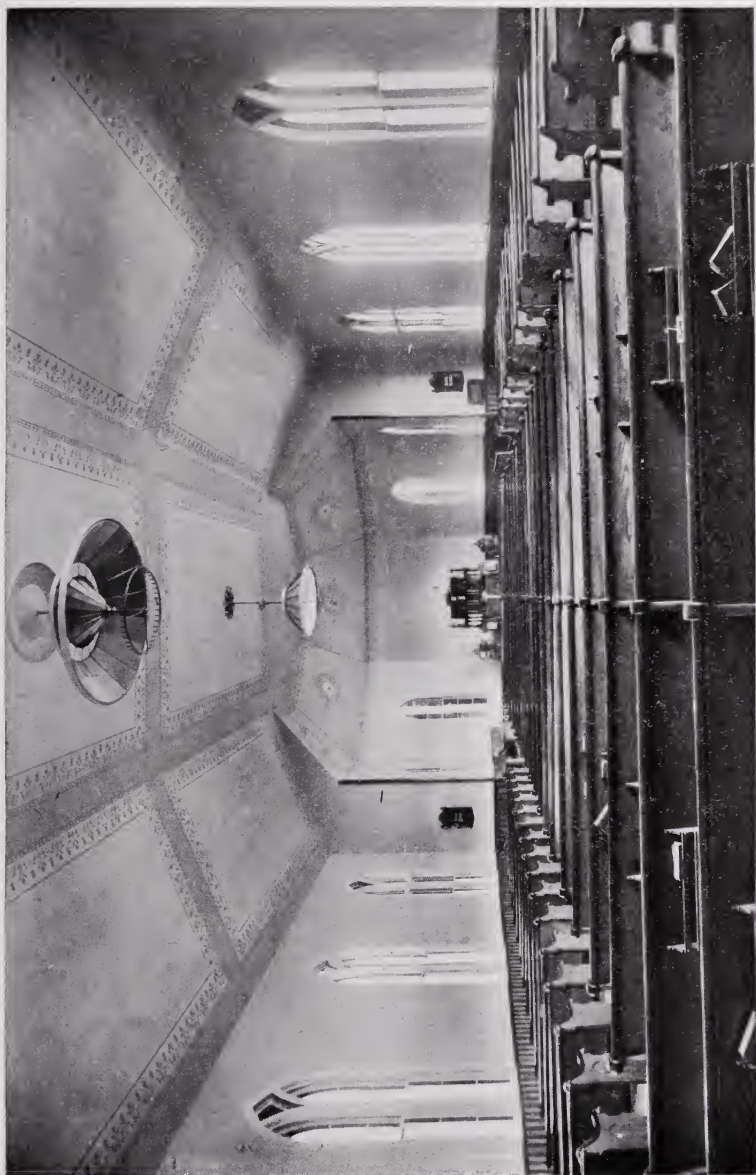


CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, NORTH STREET, HEAD OF FRANKLIN STREET.
BUILT 1855. REPLACED BY THE PRESENT STRUCTURE, 1873.



GERMAN EVANGELICAL ST. LUCAS CHURCH.

SECOND EDIFICE OF THIS SOCIETY AT RICHMOND AVENUE AND UTICA STREET. BUILT, 1881;
REPLACED BY PRESENT STRUCTURE, 1912.



INTERIOR, GERMAN EVANGELICAL ST. LUCAS CHURCH, RICHMOND AVENUE AND UTICA STREET.
BUILT 1881; TORN DOWN FOR NEW EDIFICE, 1911.



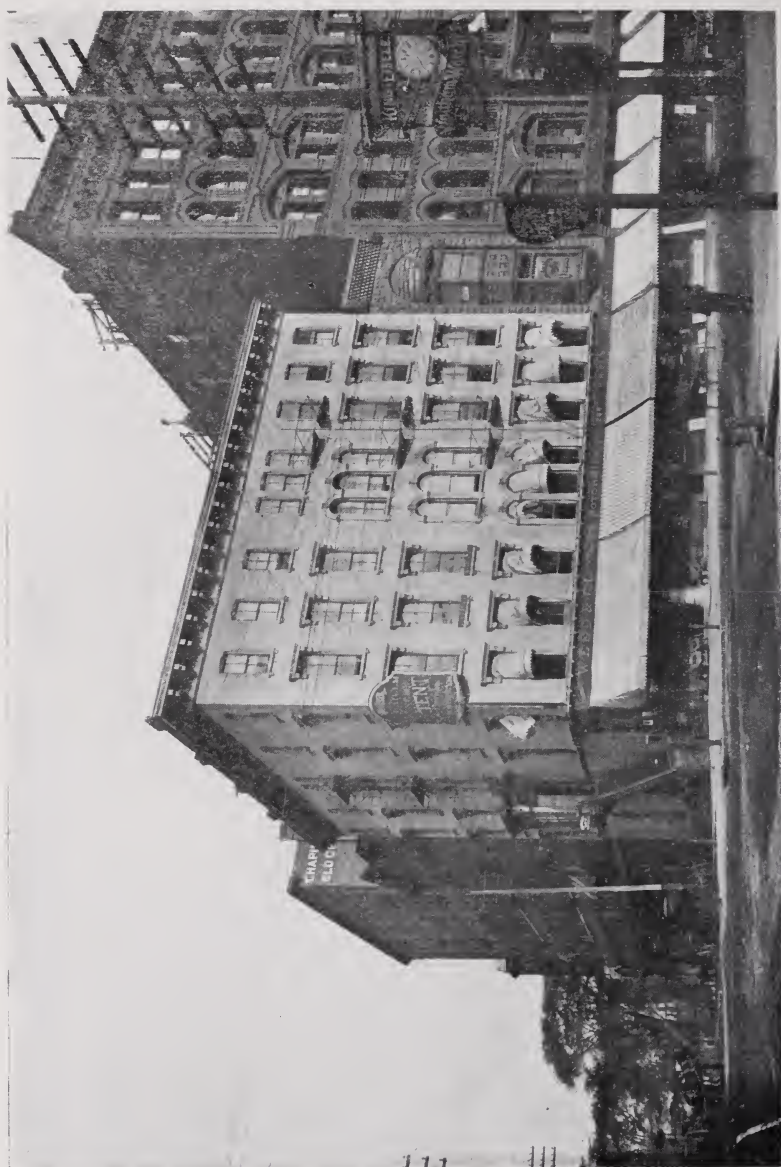
GROVER CLEVELAND'S LAW OFFICE IN THE WEED BLOCK.
FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN ABOUT THE TIME OF HIS ELECTION AS MAYOR OF BUFFALO, 1882.

THE CHANGING TOWN

The year 1836 is a great milestone, or landmark, or red letter—what you will—in the building history of Buffalo.

It marked the crest of a wave—a boom—and it preceded a collapse which filled the columns of Buffalo papers with notices of sheriff's sales.

In 1836—the year of Rathbun's failure—buildings were erected in Buffalo costing \$1,700,000—a tremendous figure for a town of 16,000. Rathbun was the largest builder, both for himself and as contractor for others. In this year he put up the American hotel for Col. Alanson Palmer; the United States hotel on the Terrace for Dr. Josiah Trowbridge; the four-story brick block, Main and Perry, originally seventeen stores in a row, built at a cost of over \$100,000 for Joy & Webster, now known as the Webster block; nine other brick stores on Main between Eagle and Perry, several of them, notably between North and South Division streets, in use today, with the same fronts Rathbun gave them seventy-seven years ago! Mr Rathbun built, in 1836, for H. H. Sizer, the fine old brick dwelling, northwest corner of Delaware and Niagara Square, now converted into an office building. On Washington street he built the Darrow block, east side below Clinton, costly, aristocratic residences, still standing (in part), but hard to recognize by that description. He built, in association with J. & T. Hefford, the three-story double residence on Washington near North Division, for William Evans and Miss Letitia



THE WEED BLOCK AND WHITE BUILDING OF FORMER YEARS.

THE WEED BLOCK, SWAN AND MAIN, BUILT 1857, TORN DOWN 1901 FOR ERECTION OF FIDELITY TRUST BUILDING. AT THE RIGHT,
THE WHITE BUILDING, BUILT 1881, TORN DOWN FOR A NEW WHITE BUILDING, 1905.

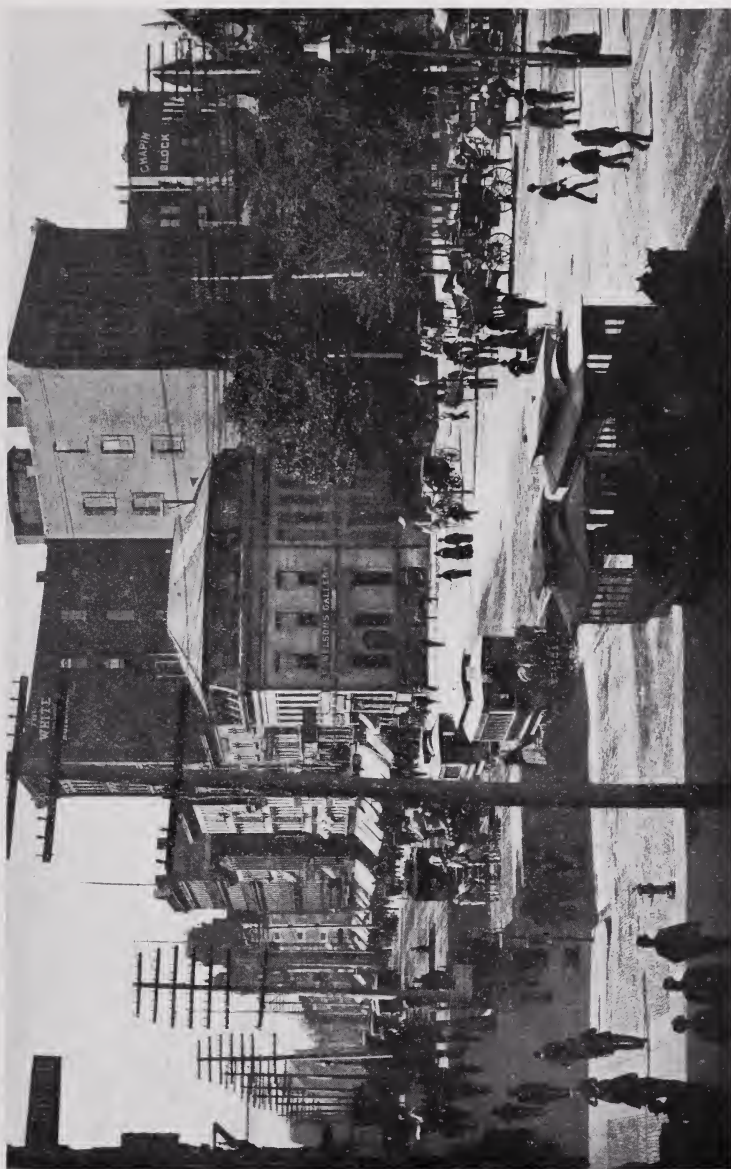


SITE OF PRESENT WHITE BUILDING BEFORE 1880.



WEST SIDE OF MAIN STREET, FROM SOUTH DIVISION, IN THE EARLY '80'S.

MOST OF THE BUILDINGS SHOWN HAVE GONE. THE OLD BANK BUILDING AT THE RIGHT WAS TORN DOWN 1900, FOR THE AMERICAN EXPRESS CO.'S BUILDING.



LOOKING DOWN MAIN STREET FROM NORTH DIVISION STREET.
BEFORE THE REMOVAL OF TELEGRAPH POLES. FROM A PHOTOGRAPH OF 1881.



A "PLAY-OUT" OF THE VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENT IN FRONT OF THE CHURCHES, 1858.
THE CLARENDON HOTEL, AT THE SOUTH DIVISION STREET CORNER. THERE WERE NO STREET-CARS IN MAIN STREET UNTIL 1860.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

Evans. For Pierre A. Barker he built the fine old home on Hudson street, long the residence of the Sidway family; and scores of stores and houses on many other streets.



CLARENDON HOTEL, MAIN AND SOUTH DIVISION STREETS.
OPENED ABOUT 1852 AS THE PHELPS HOUSE. BURNED, NOVEMBER, 1860.

Among the buildings erected in this eventful year of 1836, but not by Rathbun, were: "The superb edifice (3 stories), with three fronts of cut Sandusky stone," west side of Main at Erie, built for the Bank of Buffalo by J. B. Townsend and Jno. B. Stone, at a cost of \$30,000. The

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

earliest picture of this bank is given on page 79. The "lower" market house, on the Terrace (see picture, page 56), was "near completion" in October, 1836. It had a base-



YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION BUILDINGS.

SOUTHEAST CORNER MAIN AND EAGLE STREETS. BOUGHT AND REMODELED BY THE ASSOCIATION, 1864; DEDICATED, JAN. 10, 1865. BECAME THE RICHMOND HOTEL, 1883. BURNED, MARCH 18, 1887.

ment and first story of cut stone, the upper part of brick; was 160 feet long by 30 feet wide, with a projecting center; contained, below, the market, and above, "a spacious



RUINS OF THE RICHMOND HOTEL AND ST. JAMES HALL.
AFTER THE FIRE OF MARCH 18, 1887. PRESENT SITE OF THE IROQUOIS HOTEL.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

Council chamber, convenient offices for the City officers, police court room, watch house, etc." It was built by Ream & Hull, contractors, and cost \$17,000.

The "Upper Market," at Pearl and Mohawk, also of stone and brick, was built in this year by the same contractors; 100 by 30 feet, costing \$9,000.

Still other interesting structures of this year, were "a splendid brick edifice, with cut stone front and massive colonnade, Genesee and Pearl streets (west side), for the Pearl St. Presbyterian church (afterwards the Central). The cost was \$25,000. No picture of this edifice is known. The Washington-street Baptist church (the second one) was erected in this year by Col. O. H. Dibble, contractor, at a cost of \$22,000. They often got good results for little money in those days.

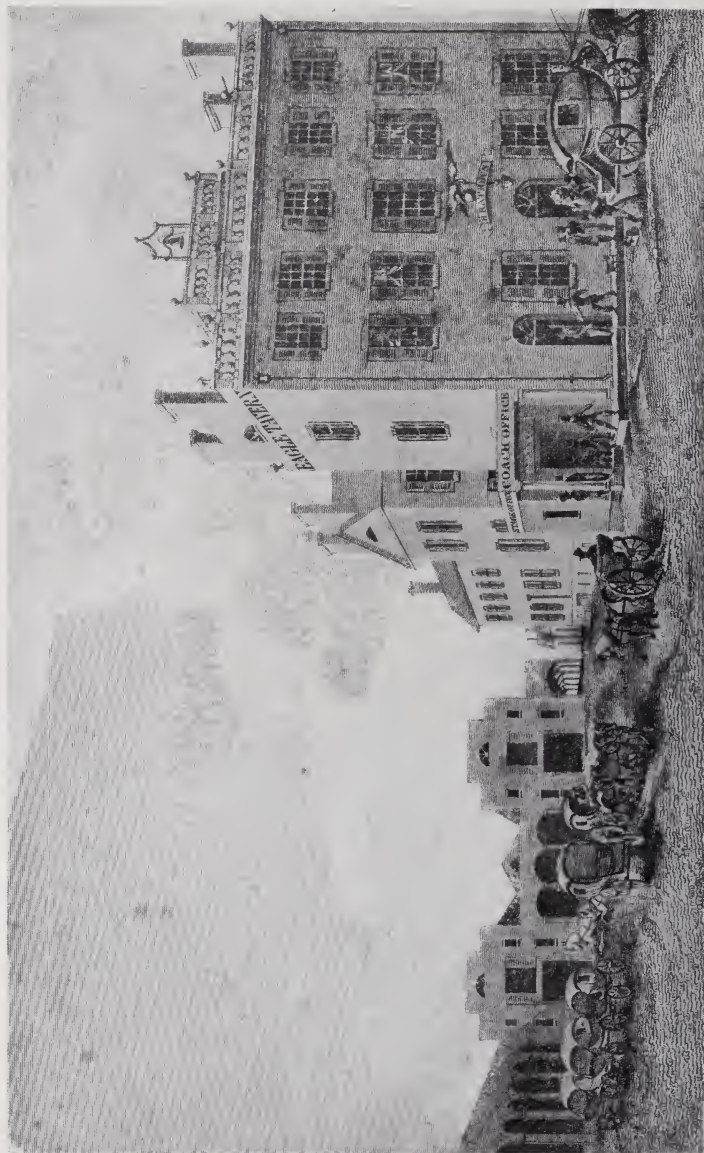
A residence of 1836, still standing, and not pictured here, is the house at the northeast corner of Delaware and Chipewa; built by Wm. S. Gardner, contractor, for A. A. Evstaphieve; well known to a later generation as the home of the Hon. E. C. Sprague; for some years past devoted to business. Opposite (northwest corner), still stands behind a modern store-front, the fine residence built 1835-6 by S. Buck for Philander Hodge, at a cost of \$30,000. It has had various ownerships. Our picture shows it about the time it was vacated by the Buffalo Club.

The original American Hotel was built in 1835-36 by Benjamin Rathbun for Alanson Palmer. The front was of cut stone and adjoining the structure were the stage yard and barns of Bela D. Coe, later belonging to Kimball & Haddock. The hotel was opened in September, 1836, by L. L. Hodges and Hollis White, who leased it from Mr. Palmer. Mr. White withdrew from the management soon and was succeeded by Ira Osborne. He also withdrew six



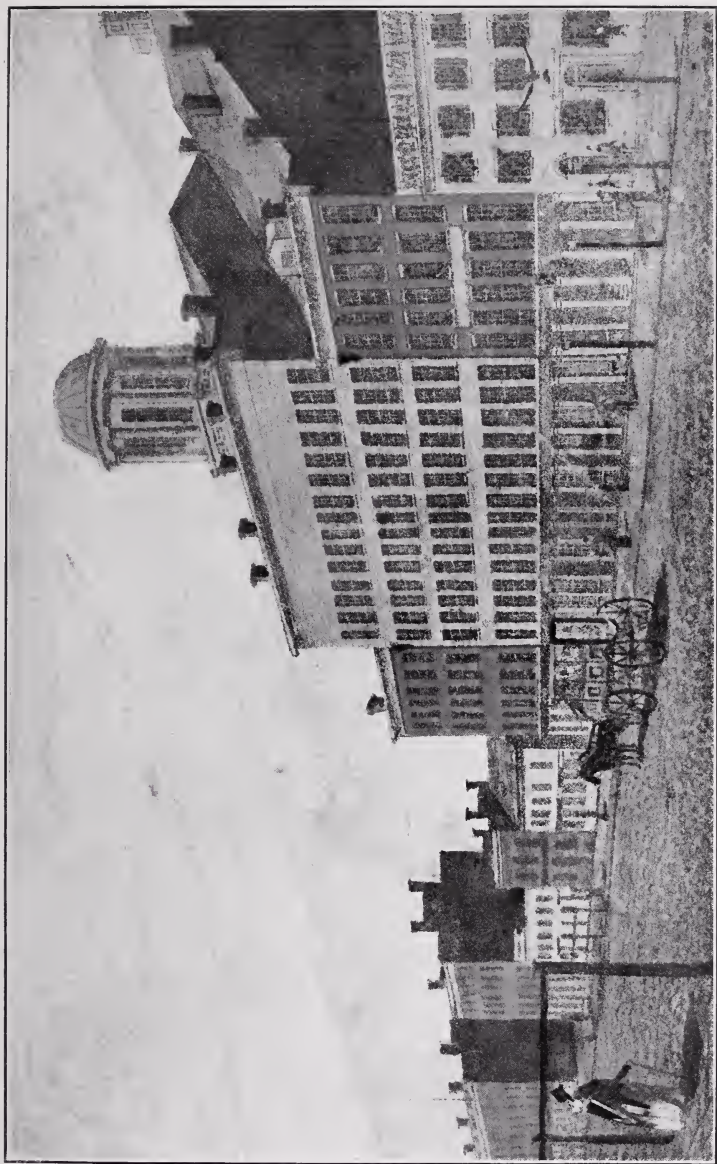
THE EAGLE TAVERN AND ADJOINING BUILDINGS, 1825.

BUILT 1825, BY BENJ. RATHBUN, WEST SIDE OF MAIN, SOUTH OF COURT. TAVERN BLOWN UP WHEN THE AMERICAN HOTEL
BURNED, 1865.—FROM AN OLD PRINT OWNED BY THE BUFFALO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

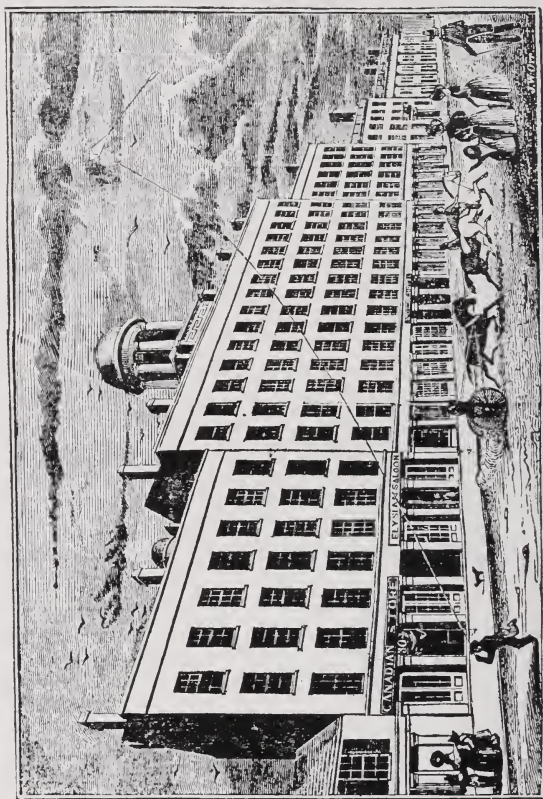


RATHBUN'S EAGLE TAVERN AS IT WAS IN 1825.

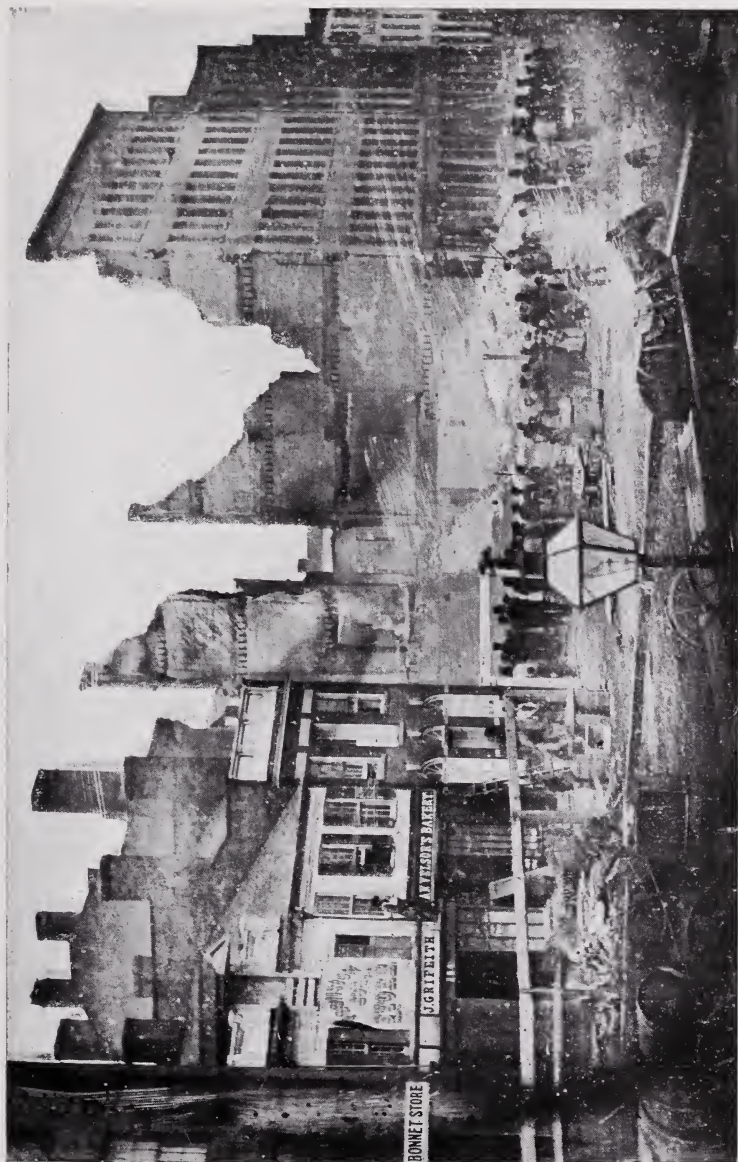
FROM AN ENGRAVING OF THAT DATE BY RAWDON, CLARK & CO., ALBANY, AFTER A DRAWING BY GEORGE CATLIN.



AN EARLY PRINT OF THE FIRST AMERICAN HOTEL AND EAGLE TAVERN.
FROM THE ORIGINAL OWNED BY THE BUFFALO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.



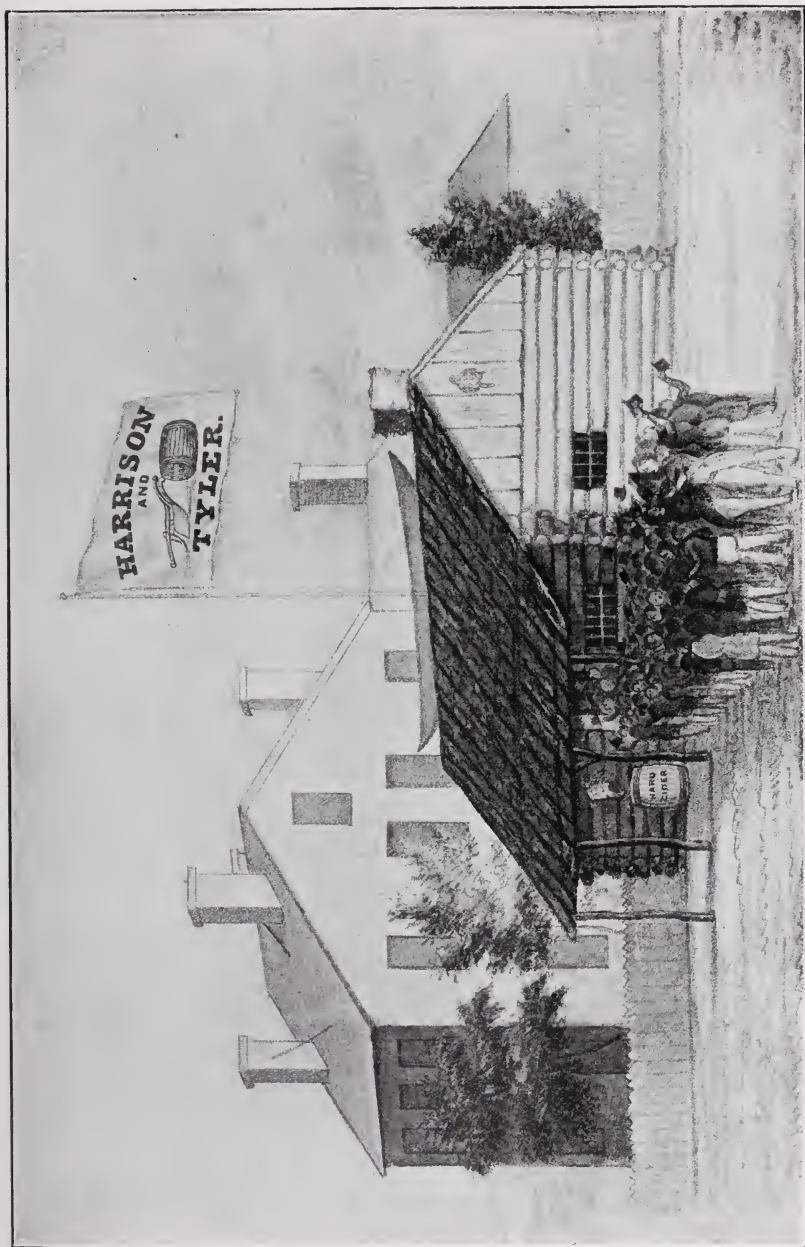
THE FIRST AMERICAN HOTEL, 1836 TO 1850.
 AS ENGRAVED BY J. W. ORR IN 1838. AT THE RIGHT, THE THREE-STORY AND TWO-STORY
 BUILDINGS OF THE EAGLE TAVERN.



RUINS OF THE FIRST AMERICAN HOTEL, BURNED MARCH 10, 1850.
FROM A DAGUERRETYPE OWNED BY THE BUFFALO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

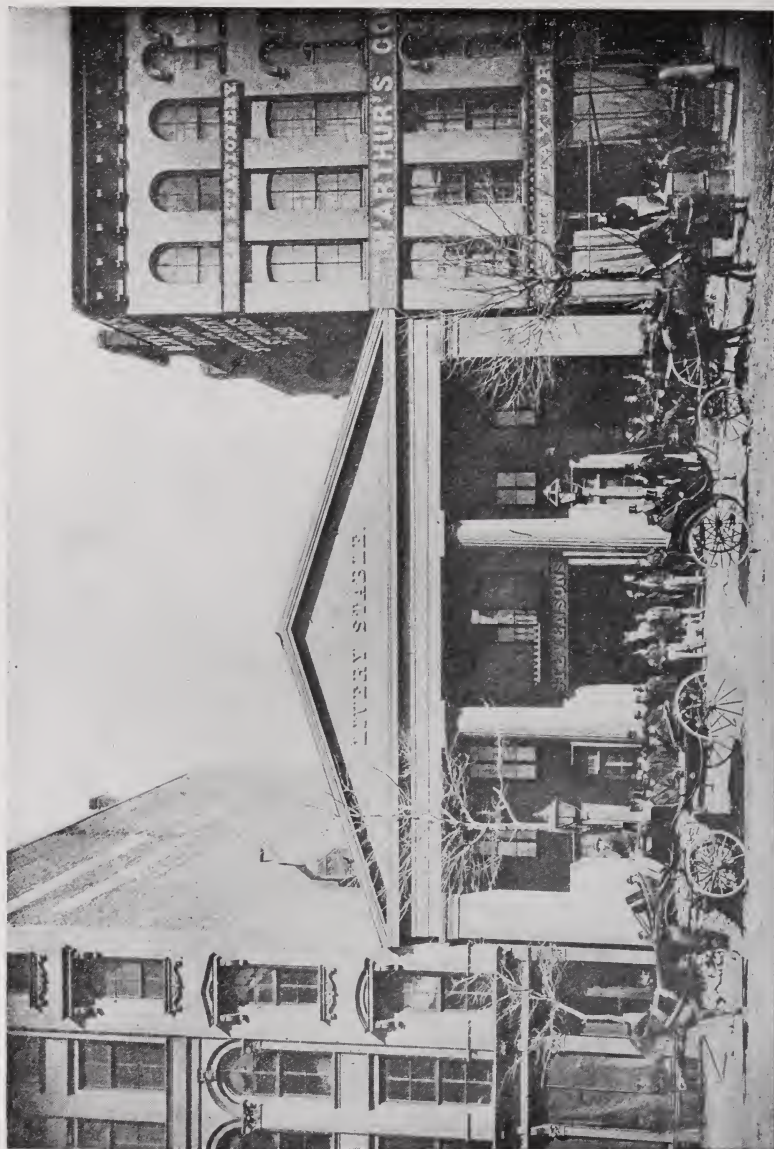


RUINS OF THE SECOND AMERICAN HOTEL. BURNED JAN. 25, 1865.



THE TIPPECANOE LOG CABIN OF THE CAMPAIGN OF 1840.

AT MAIN AND EAGLE STREETS, PRESENT SITE OF THE WILLIAMS BLOCK. IN THE BACKGROUND, HOUSE OF JUDGE EBENEZER WALDEN.



STEVENSON'S LIVERY, EAST SIDE OF MAIN, ABOVE EAGLE.

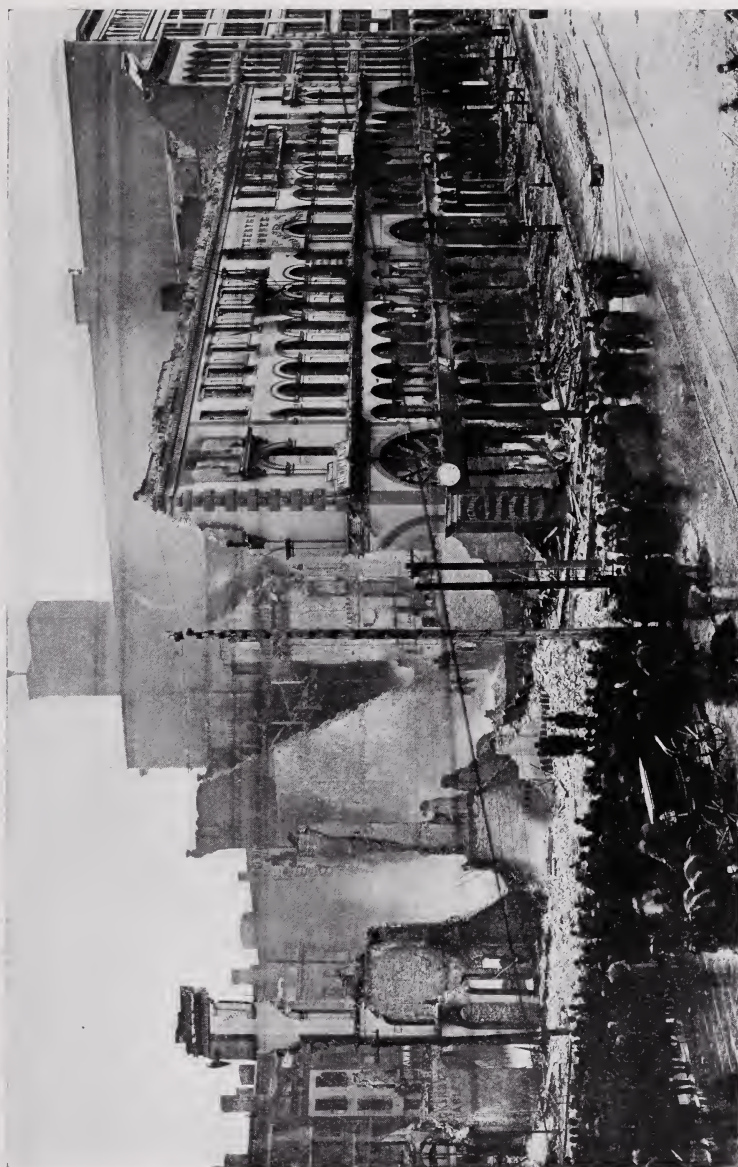
BUILT 1845. TORN DOWN 1866. SITE NOW COVERED BY THE J. N. ADAM & CO. STORES.



EAST SIDE OF MAIN, TO CLINTON, IN THE '90's. WHOLLY REBUILT SINCE.



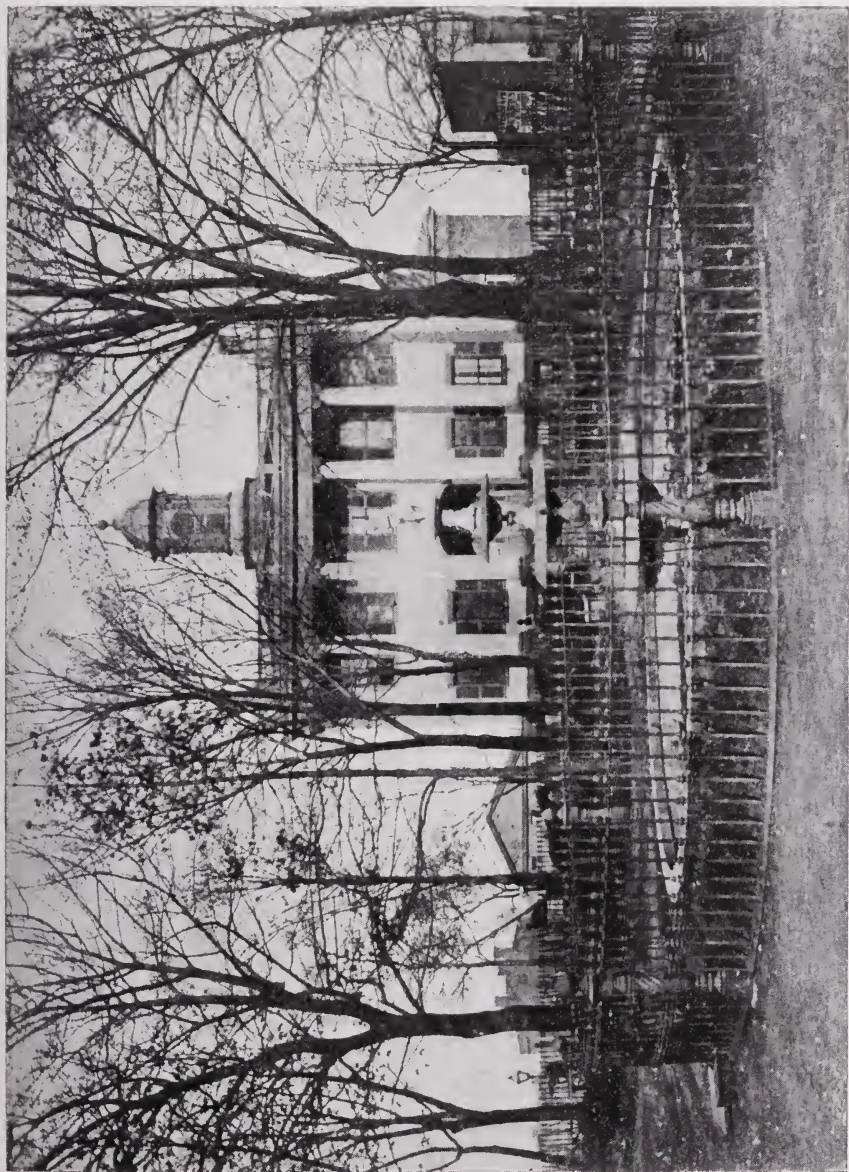
THE ARCADE, MAIN, CLINTON AND WASHINGTON STREETS. BUILT 1855.



RUINS OF THE ARCADE, MAIN AND CLINTON STREETS, AFTER THE FIRE OF DEC. 14, 1893.



MAIN STREET AT LAFAYETTE SQUARE IN THE '60's.
THE TREES WERE REMOVED IN 1876-7.



COURT HOUSE, BUILT 1816, TAKEN DOWN 1876. SITE OF BUFFALO PUBLIC LIBRARY
AN EARLY VIEW (IN THE 60's) FROM COURT-HOUSE PARK, NOW LAFAYETTE SQUARE.



THE OLD COURT HOUSE, EAGLE HOSE HOUSE NO. 2, AND AT RIGHT, SURROGATE'S OFFICE.
THESE BUILDINGS CLEARED AWAY, 1876. PRESENT SITE OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.



THE SECOND COURT-HOUSE IN BUFFALO, 1816-1876. OLD JAIL AT LEFT.
SITE OF THE BUFFALO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

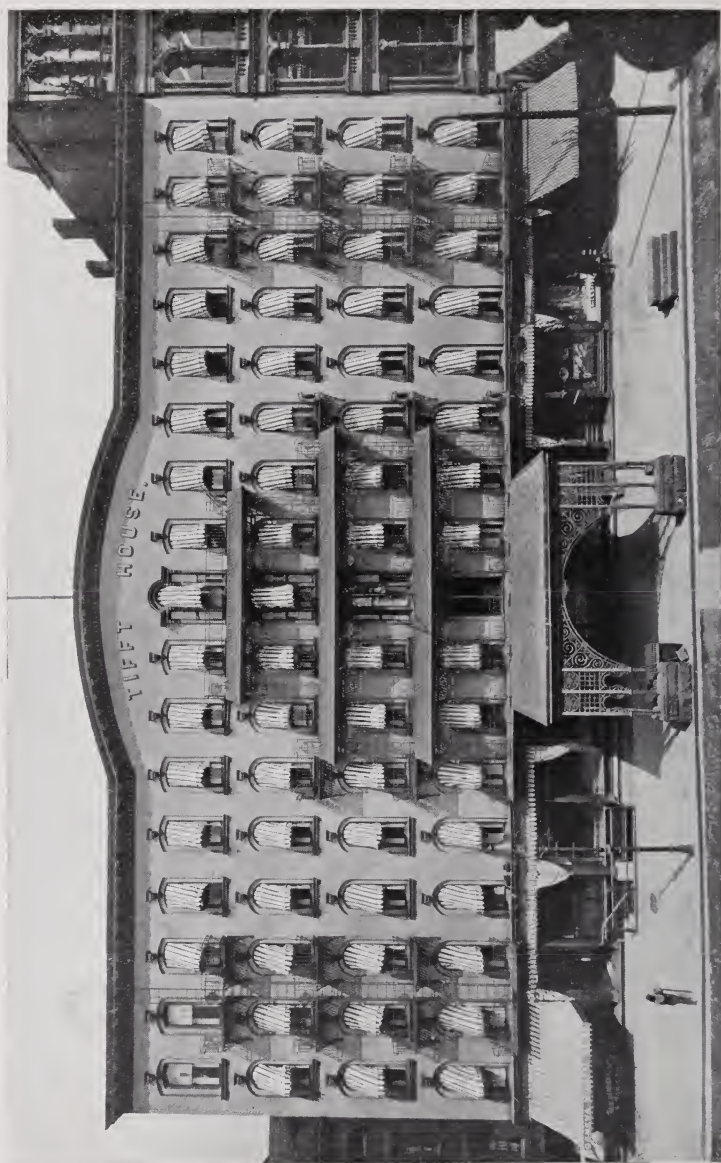


NORTHEAST CORNER MAIN STREET AND BROADWAY.
BEFORE THE ERECTION OF THE GERMAN INSURANCE BUILDING IN 1876,



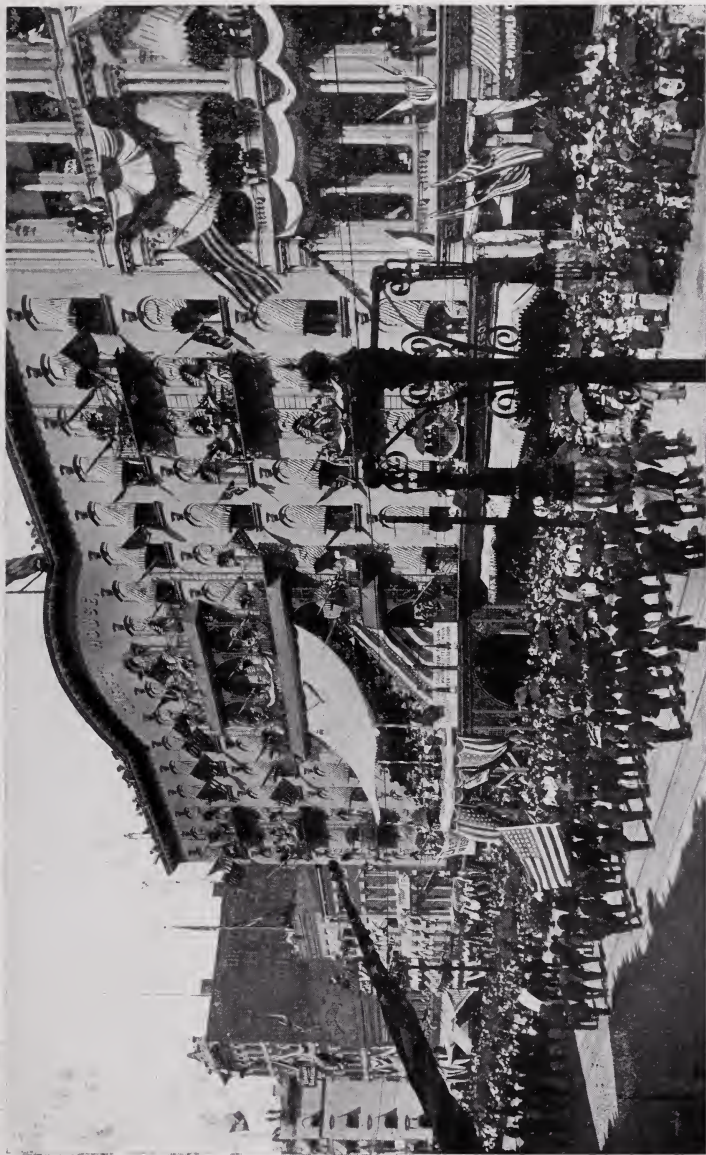
THE PHOENIX HOTEL, BUILT 1816, SITE OF THE TIFFT HOUSE, 1865-1903.

SITE NOW OCCUPIED BY STORES OF THE WM. HENGERER CO.

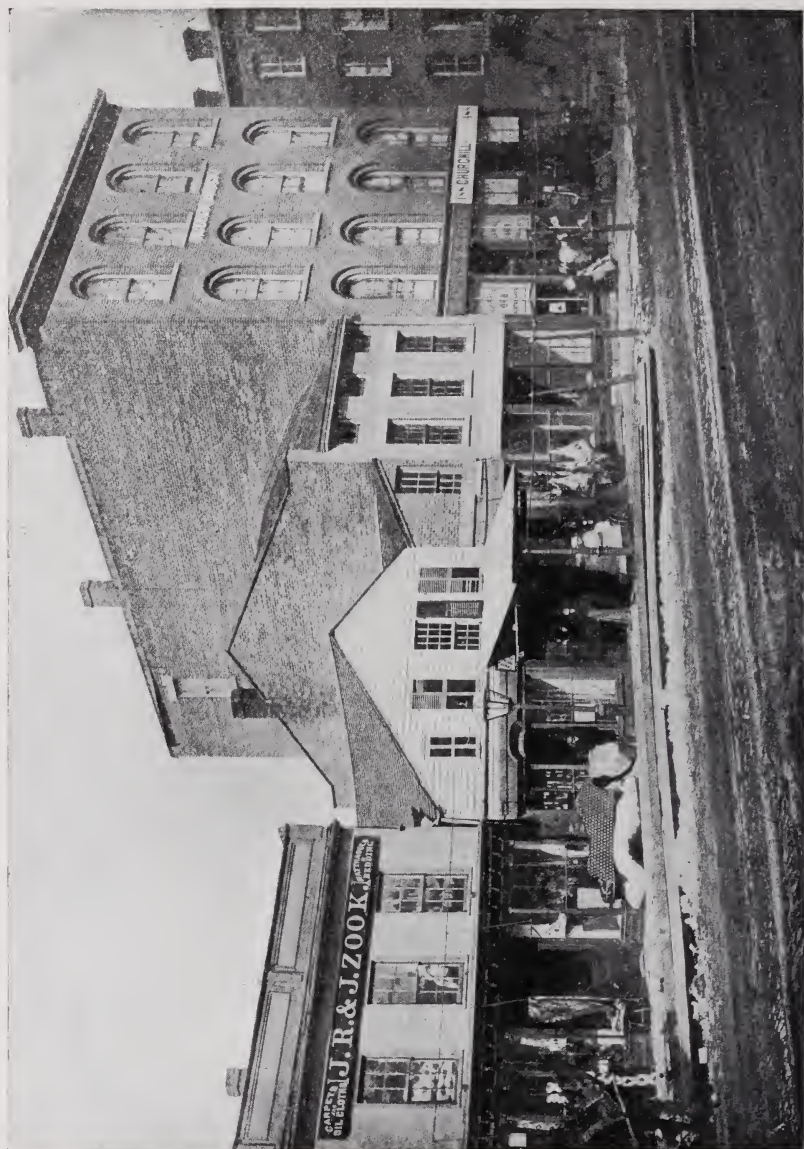


THE TIFF HOUSE IN ITS LAST DAYS.

A PROMINENT HOTEL FOR 38 YEARS, TORN DOWN 1903. IT WAS ONLY IN ITS LAST YEARS THAT IT HAD THE PORTICO AND FIRE-ESCAPE BALCONIES. IT NEVER HAD A SERIOUS FIRE.



THE TIFFT HOUSE, SHOWING G. A. R. PARADE, AUGUST, 1897.
PRESENT SITE OF THE WM. HENGERER CO.'S STORES.



MILLER BLOCK, AT MAIN AND MOHAWK STREETS, IN 1870.
AND OLD BUILDINGS ADJOINING, ON THE SOUTH.



OLD BUILDINGS, SOUTH SIDE OF MOHAWK, BETWEEN MAIN AND PEARL STREETS.

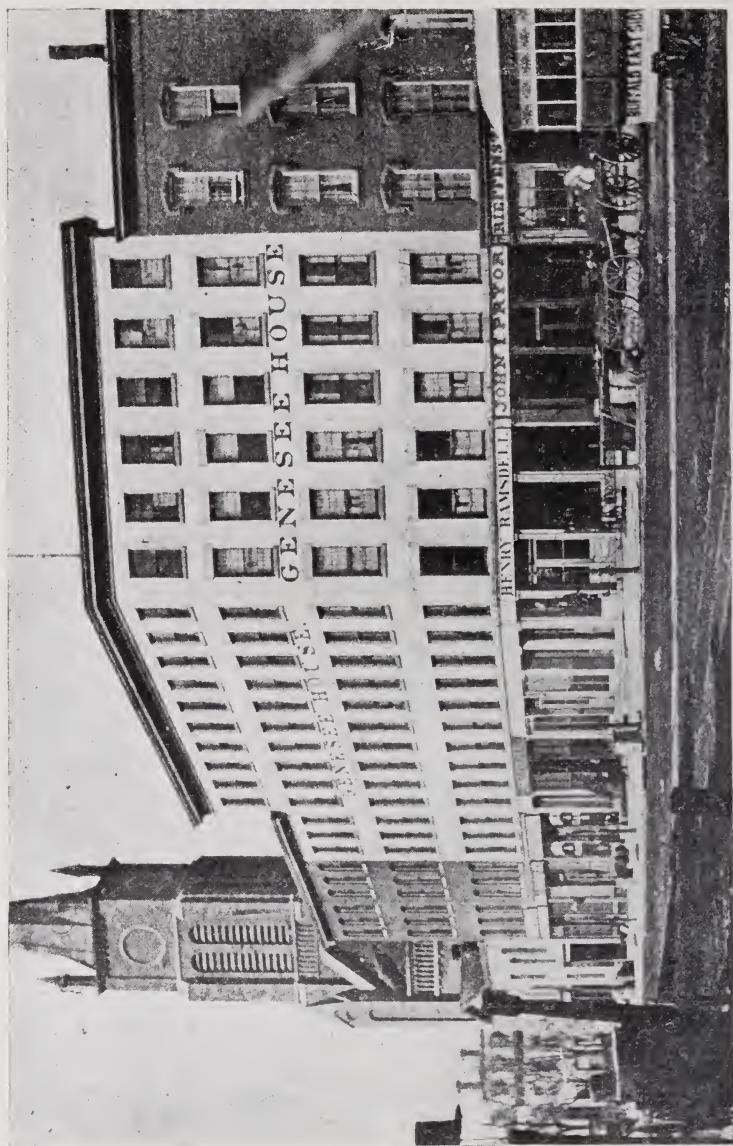
SITE NOW COVERED BY HENS & KELLY'S STORES.



MOHAWK STREET MARKET, BUILT ABOUT 1835; TORN DOWN 1882.
THE BUILDING OF THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION NOW OCCUPIES THIS SITE.



CHIPPEWA MARKET IN THE '80's.



THE SECOND GENESEE HOUSE, PREDECESSOR OF THE PRESENT GENESEE HOTEL.
BUILT 1842; DEMOLISHED 1881. PRIOR TO 1842, A WOODEN BUILDING, ALSO NAMED THE GENESEE HOUSE, STOOD ON THIS SITE.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

years later, leaving Mr. Hodges sole proprietor. He continued to conduct it, making it the most famous hotel in Western New York, and, indeed, at that time, perhaps the most sumptuous hostelry west of New York City, until March 10, 1850, when it was burned to the ground with other buildings. Our picture of its ruins is a reproduction of a daguerreotype owned by the Historical Society.

Soon after the fire, the ground on which it stood, 91 feet front, was purchased by John Michael, for \$25,000. He also bought 45 feet adjoining on the north, for \$10,000 and erected the second American Hotel, the cost for site and building being stated at about \$110,000. An addition to the hotel, uniform with it and connected therewith, was built on the south end by Albert H. Tracy and Edward L. Stevenson. The new hotel was opened by Mr. Hodges, July 5, 1851, and remained under his management until it in turn burned Jan. 25, 1865. It was noted as a curious coincidence that Mr. Hodges' occupancy of each hotel had been for the term of thirteen years and six months.

It was at the burning of the second American that three young men, of well-known Buffalo families, lost their lives: James H. Sidway, William H. Gillett and George H. Tift.

To prevent the spread of the fire, the old Eagle tavern, north of the American and south of Court street, was blown up by gunpowder.

So ended the two most famous hotels of Buffalo. They were succeeded by the Tift House, on the site of the old ramshackle Phoenix.

About 1845, the United States Bank, on the northeast corner of Main and South Division streets, was bought by Orson Phelps. The old bank building was of stone, with pillars in front ; it was three stories high, and extended down South Division street about half way to Washington



BUILDING AT MAIN, HURON AND GENESEE STREETS.

ERECTED BY MOSES BAKER IN THE 30'S, TORN DOWN 1898. PRESENT SITE OF THE BUFFALO SAVINGS BANK.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

street, having a dwelling for the cashier in the rear of the bank, with entrance on South Division street. No picture of these buildings is known. Mr. Phelps tore them down and built the five-story brick structure shown in the pictures. It was opened as the Phelps House, later renamed the Clarendon, and was destroyed by fire, with some loss of life, Dec. 10, 1860. The building now on the site, known as the Peabody block, was built by Mr. Phelps after the destruction of the hotel. In its last years the hotel was used for stores and offices.

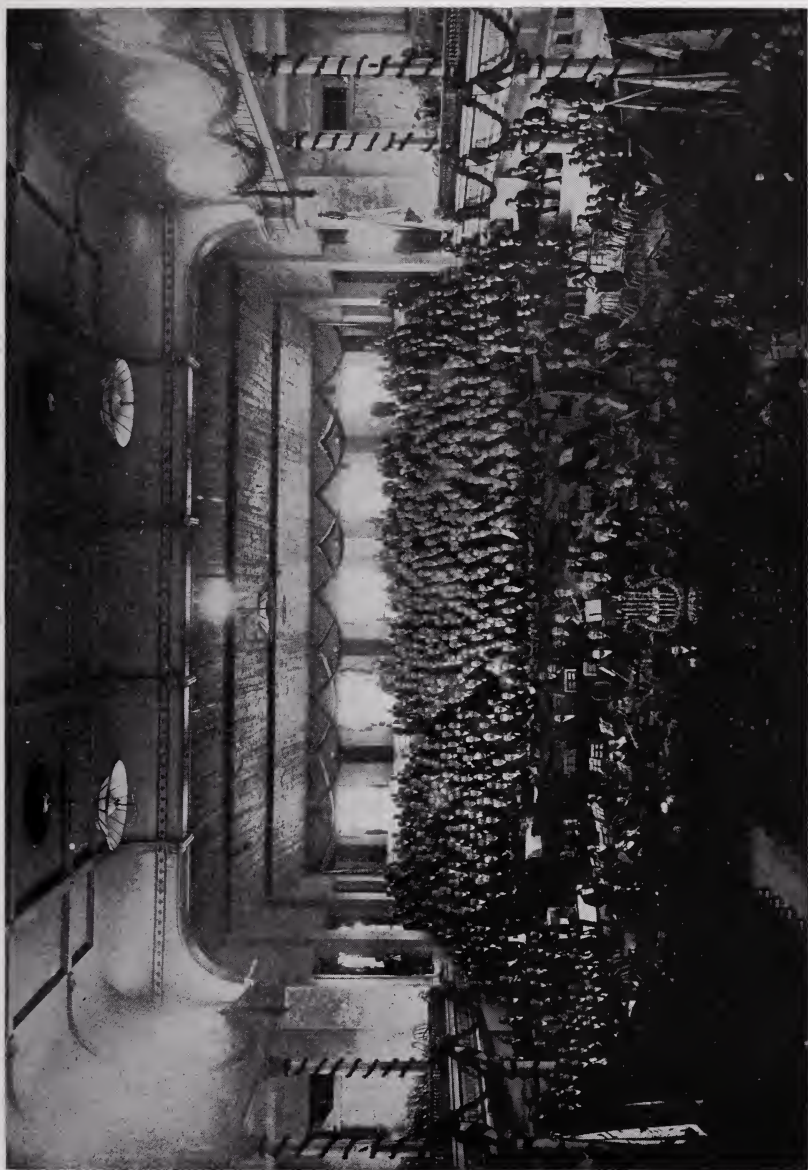
Two of our pictures show the Clarendon hotel at Main and South Division streets. One of the views was taken in 1858, during an exhibition drill of the old volunteer fire department. The Clarendon is the principal building shown, with the flag on its roof. The picture is a reminder that Main street was then rough-paved and had no car tracks; also that there was no instantaneous photography, as the blurred vehicles attest.

The old Mohawk-street market was truly a landmark. Erected at the junction of Mohawk, Pearl and Genesee streets in 1836, it succeeded the two-storied farm house in which Asaph F. Bemis was born, in 1817, and which was undoubtedly new at that time, else it would have been destroyed at the burning of Buffalo.

How long the Mohawk-street building was used for a public market, cannot be definitely stated. During the so-called Patriot War, 1837-8, the State sent arms to Buffalo for the protection of the frontier and they were stored in this building. An episode of its history was the theft of a quantity of arms by persons favorable to the Patriot cause. The result was a compromise, according to the terms of which the title of the Mohawk-street property was transferred to the State and the building was used as an arsenal



THE FIRST MUSIC HALL, BUILT 1883, BURNED MARCH 25, 1885.

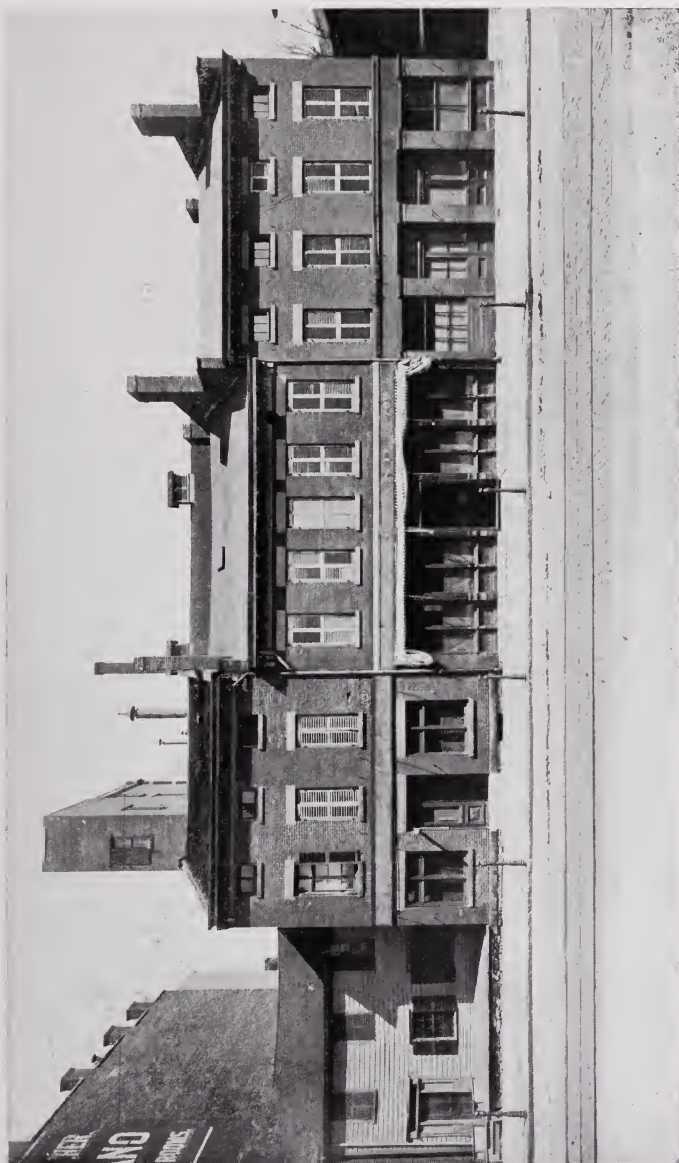


THE STAGE AND PART OF AUDITORIUM FIRST MUSIC HALL, BURNED MARCH 25, 1885.]



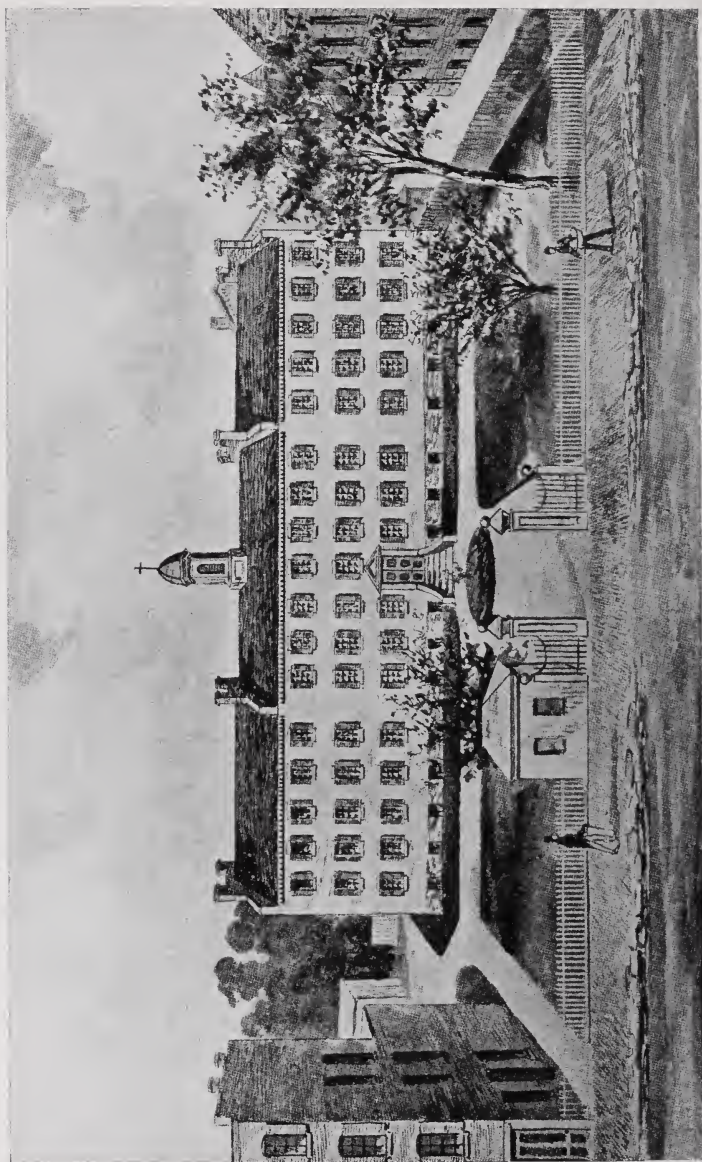
INTERIOR OF THE SECOND MUSIC HALL, AS ORIGINALLY FINISHED.

NOW REMODELED AND KNOWN AS THE TECK THEATER.

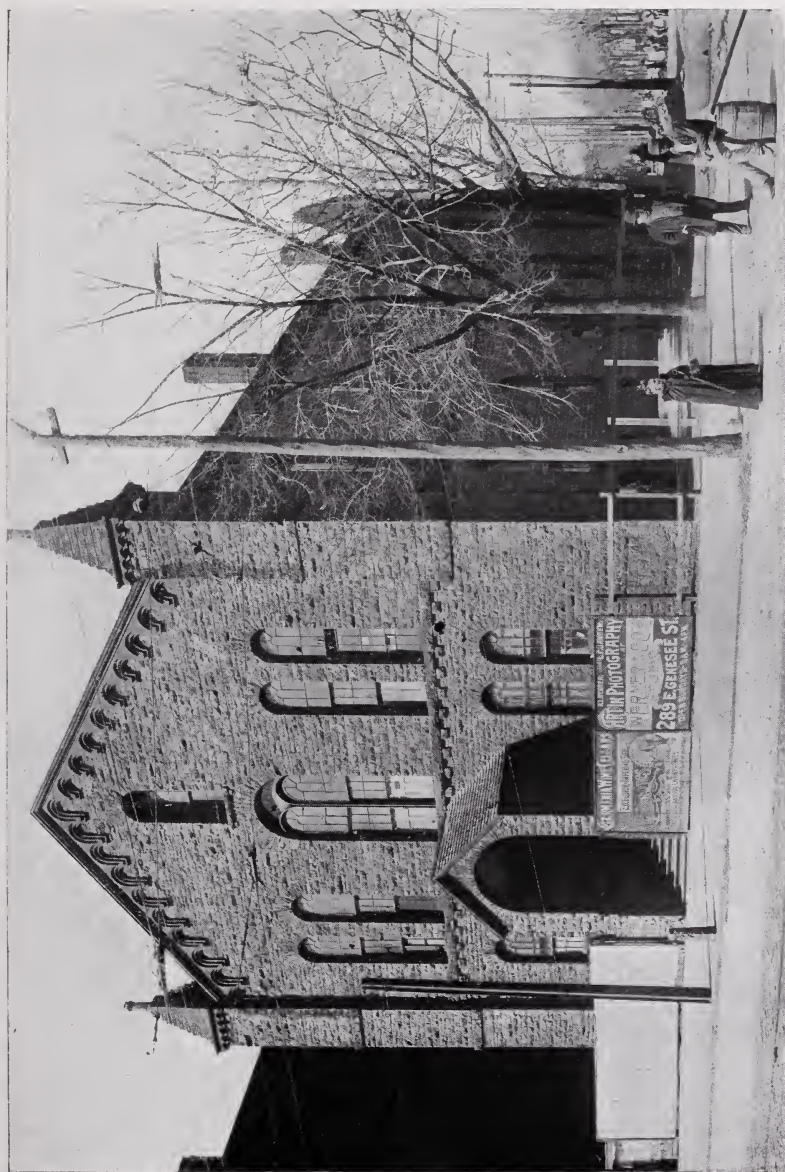


OLD BUILDINGS OF THE WEYAND BREWING CO., MAIN STREET, AT GOODELL.

THE FRAME BUILDING AT LEFT WAS BUILT ABOUT 1826; THE OTHERS SOMEWHAT LATER. ALL TORN DOWN, 1895-6, FOR ERECTION OF BUILDINGS NOW ON SITE.



BUFFALO HOSPITAL OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY, 1848-1876.
FROM AN OLD-TIME DRAWING, REMODELED AND STILL STANDING, WEST SIDE OF PEARL PLACE.



SECOND BUFFALO MEDICAL COLLEGE, MAIN AND VIRGINIA STREETS.

BUILT 1849-50; TORN DOWN 1890. FIRST BUILDING ERECTED IN BUFFALO FOR COLLEGIATE INSTRUCTION.
SITE NOW OCCUPIED BY THE CATHOLIC INSTITUTE.



THE LAST OF HOFFMAN'S BREWERY, MAIN AND ST. PAUL STREETS.

BUILT 1842. FOR MANY YEARS A TAVERN IN CONNECTION WITH THE VALENTINE HOFFMAN BREWERY. TORN DOWN 1902.

until the one on Batavia street (now Broadway) was completed, when the market was given back to the city. In 1865, the city made a gift of it to the Grosvenor Library and rented it for police station No. 3 until a new station-house on Pearl street was built. After the police vacated it, it was occupied for a time by the College of Physicians and Surgeons. In its last years, when falling into decay, portions of it were used as shops by painters and plasterers. Finally the Grosvenor Library sold the property to the Young Men's Christian Association for \$12,000. The old building was cleared away and the corner stone of the Y. M. C. A. (now occupied by the Y. W. C. A.) was laid, Sept. 7, 1882, Grover Cleveland making the principal address.

The structure known as Brown's buildings, at the north-east corner of Main and Seneca streets, was erected in 1858. A three-story structure adjoining was of somewhat later date. A current saying, for many years, was to the effect that Queen Victoria owned this property. This was a fiction. The owners, in recent years, were two young women, residents of England, daughters of a former member of the banking firm of Brown Bros. & Co., who have establishments in London, New York, and many other commercial centers. Brown Bros. & Co. for many years controlled the investment of a great deal of English capital in the United States, and this fact, no doubt, gave rise to the story that the Brown's buildings were owned by Queen Victoria, as some of the banking house's clients have been members of the British nobility, very close to the throne. For many years, however, down to the time of the purchase of the property by the Marine National Bank, the real owners were the two English women just mentioned, whose possessions in Buffalo, among other places, constituted a



BUILDINGS OF THE SCHAEZLIN BREWERY PROPERTY, MAIN STREET AND DELAVAN AVENUE.

BUILT 1840; DEMOLISHED 1912.

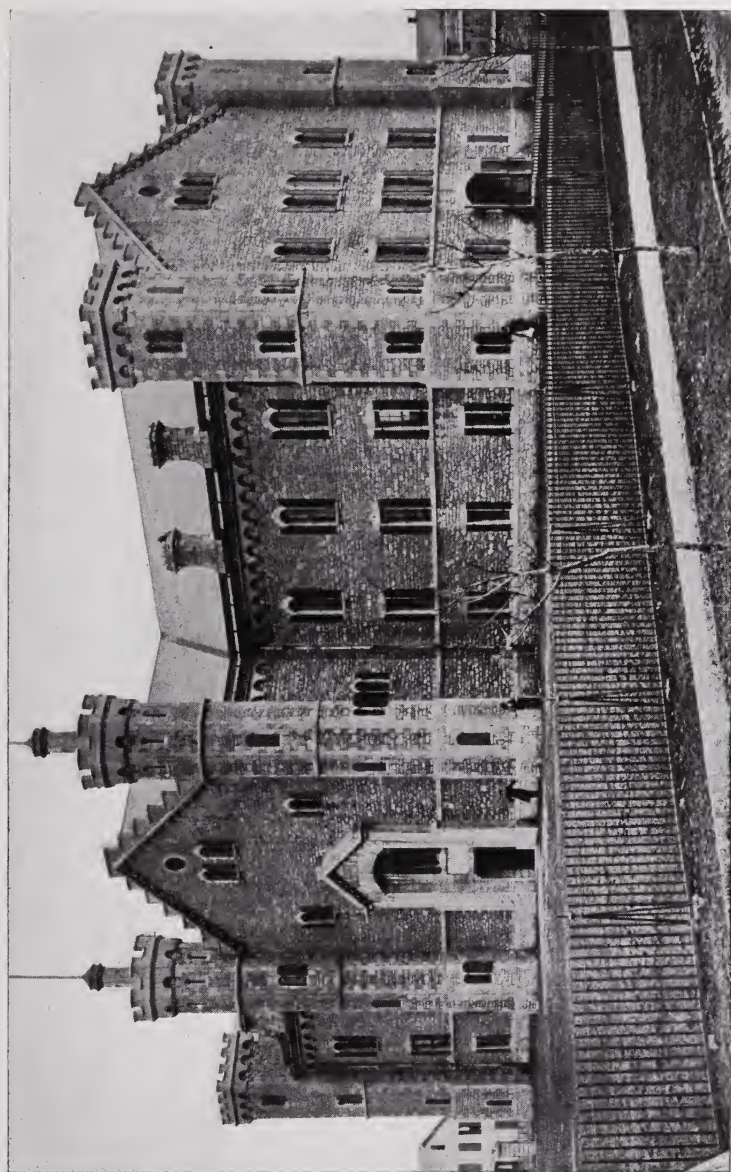


THE SCHAEZLIN BREWERY, MAIN STREET AT SCAJAQUADA CREEK.



PROVIDENCE RETREAT, MAIN STREET AND KENSINGTON AVENUE. BUILT 1860.

THIS STRUCTURE STILL STANDS, THOUGH HIDDEN FROM VIEW BY A LARGER MODERN HOSPITAL BUILDING BETWEEN IT AND THE STREET.



THE STATE ARSENAL ON BROADWAY. CORNER-STONE LAID MAY 5, 1858.

NOW MERGED IN THE BROADWAY AUDITORIUM, THE MAIN HALL OF WHICH FILLS THE SPACE BETWEEN THE OLD BUILDING AND THE STREET.



THE BUFFALO GENERAL HOSPITAL IN 1858.
STILL STANDING AS AN INCONSPICUOUS PART OF A GROUP OF MORE MODERN STRUCTURES.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

great property, known as the Brown estate. This estate, at least up to a few years ago, had never been partitioned among the heirs of its former owner. Brown's buildings, on the corner, were four stories high, and midway between Main and Washington, three stories high. For many years the Western Union Telegraph Company occupied the upper floors. Its offices were for long periods leased by publishers. Among other papers issued from the building was the Buffalo *Christian Advocate*, which was located here for many years.



OFFICE BUFFALO GENERAL HOSPITAL, 1858.

FROM A RARE PHOTOGRAPH OWNED BY THE HOSPITAL.



THE PARADE HOUSE, IN PRESENT HUMBOLDT PARK. BUILT 1875, TAKEN DOWN 1904.



MAIN BUILDING OF THE BUFFALO INTERNATIONAL FAIR, EAST FERRY STREET.
EXPOSITION HELD SEPTEMBER, 1888. BUILDING BURNED JULY 31, 1894.



LAST DAYS OF THE SCHOOL HOUSE ON FERRY STREET, BUILT 1820.

MILLARD FILLMORE TAUGHT HERE WHEN A YOUNG MAN.



MASTEN PARK HIGH SCHOOL, OPENED FOR SCHOOL USE SEPT. 1, 1897; BURNED MARCH 27, 1912.



TOLL-GATE ON THE WILLIAMSVILLE ROAD NEAR THE CITY LINE.

AS IT WAS SOME THIRTY YEARS AGO. AN EARLIER MAIN STREET TOLL-GATE STOOD NEAR THE PRESENT HUMBOLDT PARKWAY.



THE WILLIAMSVILLE STAGE, HALF A CENTURY AGO.

THE BUFFALO TERMINUS FOR MANY YEARS WAS THE PHOENIX HOTEL, LATER AT THE FRANKLIN HOUSE.



AN EARLY LANDMARK ON SCAJAQUADA CREEK: THE PARK GRIST MILL.



SOUTHWEST CORNER PEARL AND CHURCH STREETS, IN THE '80's.

THE CORNER HOUSE, AS EARLY AS 1840, WAS THE HOME OF REUBEN G. SNOW. THESE BUILDINGS CLEARED AWAY, 1895. PRESENT SITE OF THE PRUDENTIAL, NEW YORK TELEPHONE AND OTHER MODERN BUILDINGS.

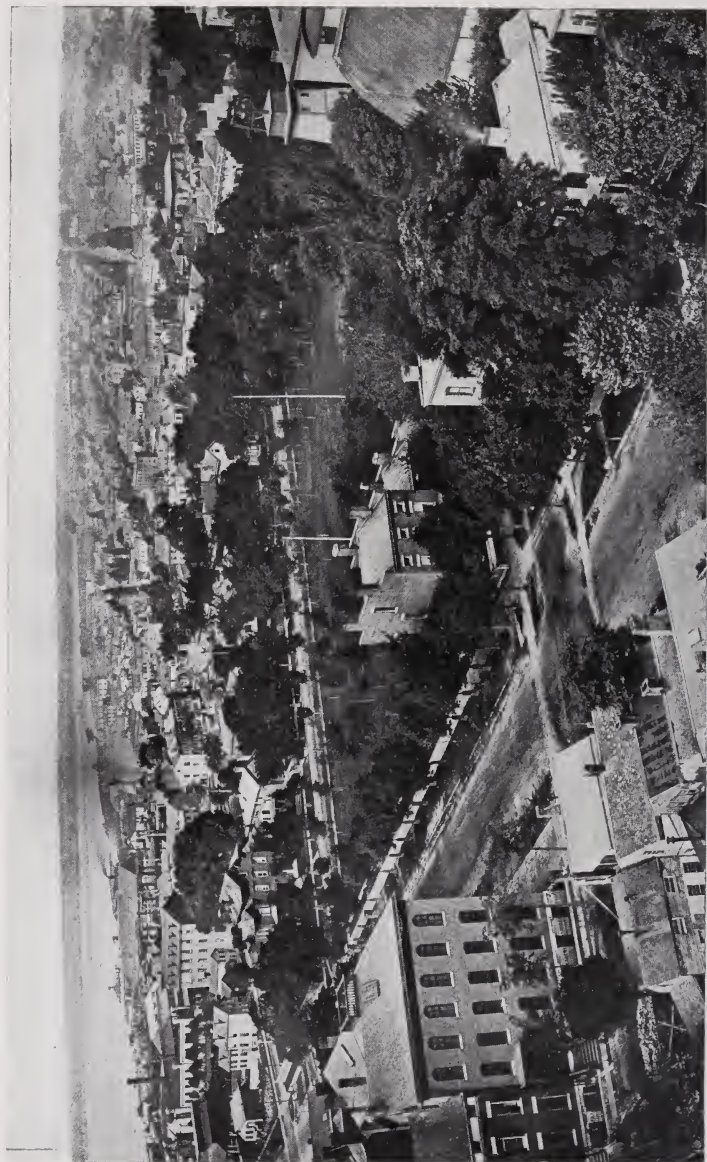


NORTH SIDE OF CHURCH STREET, EAST FROM FRANKLIN.

AT LEFT, HOME OF CAPT. CHAS. GARDNER, 1852-'75. THE THIRD STORY WAS ADDED 1888. THE LIGHT MODERN BUILDING WAS MOVED, 1912, TO THE SITE OF THE OSCAR COBB HOUSE ON THE RIGHT. A MODERN OFFICE BUILDING OCCUPIES THE CORNER. AT RIGHT, THE DR. REUBEN G. SNOW HOUSE, 1859; LATER THE HOME OF DR. JOSEPH FOWLER.



NO. 37 CHURCH STREET, BUILT 1835. TORN DOWN 1912.
ORIGINALLY THE HOME OF BIRDSEYE WILCOX; FROM 1858 TO 1912, THE RESIDENCE OF OSCAR COBB AND FAMILY.



FRANKLIN SQUARE IN 1870. CHURCH STREET IN THE FOREGROUND.

AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER, CHURCH AND FRANKLIN STREETS, IS THE RESIDENCE OF H. E. HOWARD. ON THE PRESENT SITE OF THE JAIL, DELAWARE AVENUE AND CHURCH STREETS, IS THE ONE-TIME RESIDENCE OF M. A. CAMPBELL.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

There are early prints of the old Eagle Tavern, but the most valuable picture of it in existence is an original drawing made by Mr. John Sage in 1866, a few months after it was destroyed. The engraving on page 161 is a reproduction of this drawing. It does not show, what shows plainly on the large original, the signs over the doors of the several offices. Beginning at the left, the first of the four one-story office buildings was the clock and jewelry shop of S. Ball. Then came in order the offices of Joseph Clary, John Root, and B. Fowler. Across the stage yard, was the stage office; and at the other side of the hotel, in the two-story extension, were, Dr. Trowbridge; next to him a tailor shop; then the offices of William Whitaker, Albert Hayden, and, at the corner, Sprague & Martin. On two of the stages appears the name, "Bela D. Coe," on the third (at the left), that of Benjamin Rathbun.

If space permitted it would be pleasant to record many facts regarding these glimpses of old-time Buffalo; but our pages are needed for the pictures themselves.

The evolution of Main street, slow though it be, is perpetual. Sixty years ago the *Commercial Advertiser* was commenting on it. "The ruthless hand of progress," said that journal, April 5, 1852, "has leveled to the earth the old willow which stood at the corner of Main and Mohawk streets. . . . So perish one by one the relics of our early days." The passing of another landmark, at Main and Swan, was thus recorded, June 6, 1857:

"The old hardware store of De Witt C. Weed, on the corner of Main and Swan streets, is in process of demolition, preparatory to rebuilding in the style of the two stores put up last summer, with a front of Chicago stone. Year by year the old edifices give place to new and more pretentious successors until Main street is becoming remarkable

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

for the high character of its architecture. The changes made during two or three years past have contributed much to make it one of the finest thoroughfares in the country."

The new building above noted, is the "old" Weed block pictured on page 152.



OLD PUBLIC SCHOOL NO. 8.
ON CHURCH STREET NEAR THE TERRACE.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

The records of the old Tippecanoe log cabin (p. 167) are in part preserved by the Historical Society and afford interesting glimpses of that famous campaign. How much might be written of the old Court House, and the ever-changing park in front of it! Another park-like space, still remembered by many citizens, was in front of the old Hospital of the Sisters of Charity, pictured on page 192. The middle part of that building was originally Major M'Kay's



OLD MAYOR'S OFFICE, FRANKLIN SQUARE.

TORN DOWN ON COMPLETION OF THE CITY HALL, 1876.



LAST DAYS OF THE OLD MAYOR'S OFFICE ON THE FRANKLIN SQUARE LOT.

military academy, and the grounds in front of it extended to Main street. Now it is in part built upon, in part Pearl Place.

Franklin Square, where the City Hall now stands, has a varied history. It was the second burial ground in the village, the first being east of Washington street, above present Exchange. It was originally a part of the Terrace, but used for burials from 1804 to 1836. [See Publications, Buffalo Historical Society, vol. One.] In October, 1836, a brick wall was built around it on the Eagle, Delaware and Church street sides, at a cost of \$2,000, paid for by popular subscription. At that time, all the graves not marked by stones or monuments, were leveled and graded even with the general surface. Many a resting-place of early residents, and of soldiers of 1812, was thus lost for identification. The *Commercial Advertiser*, Oct. 27, 1836, noted with regret that "the leveling process spares comparatively few of the entire number within the yard," and advocated marking any that might be known, and the adornment of the place with trees and shrubs.

In 1851 the city bought the property of H. E. Howard, 95 by 115½ feet, at the northwest corner of Church and Franklin streets. It was used for Mayor's office and other city offices until shortly before the completion of the present City Hall. One of our pictures shows it with the walls of the City Hall behind it, and another, taken in 1872, shows the wing of it just before demolition. In its last days this was the office of the Fire Department, and among the men in front may be made out Department Chief French, and at his left, in a light coat, Fred. Hornung, afterwards chief. Further up Franklin, towards Eagle, were the residences of Lyman Dunbar, Geo. W. Smith, Warren Lampman, John J. Palmer and Louisa Johnson. These were bought by the



OLD CITY AND COUNTY BUILDINGS, FRANKLIN SQUARE.

SOME OF THEM WERE OLD RESIDENCES, WHEN OCCUPIED BY THE CITY, 1852. USED AS PUBLIC OFFICES UNTIL THE ERECTION OF THE PRESENT CITY HALL, 1876.

city and used for city offices, until demolished for the present building.

In 1857, when Seth Grosvenor bequeathed \$40,000 to the city of Buffalo for a library, \$10,000 of which was to be used for a lot and building, old Franklin Square was strongly advocated as its site. The *Express* thought the Mayor's office (the old Howard house) could be converted into a library; but the *Commercial* advocated the "choicest spot on Franklin Square," adding, "let its building be beautiful and let it be forever a pleasant place of resort." Nothing came out of these suggestions. In June, 1857, we find the *Commercial* lamenting over the neglected state of the place:

"A more melancholy exhibition of seediness than Franklin Square does not exist in this city. There is a ground, beautiful in its location and in its adaptation to ornamental purposes, and immediately under the nose of the Common Council at its weekly meetings, which has lain for years in the most neglected condition. Not a tree is planted, not an avenue laid out, the gates locked to keep people off a grass which is only imaginary, it is a standing offence to all passers-by. On the north side of the square there is no sidewalk and dwellers on West Eagle street have only the natural soil to walk upon.

"Just now some city official is engaged, in a slow and easy way, in mowing the surface of its crop of wild oats and coarse grass. So far so good, but something more should be done to beautify it. Without going into any heavy expense it seems that a little money employed in seeding down the enclosure and planting trees would get the place in the way of becoming pleasant some time or other. The trees once planted would grow without additional expense; provided always that they are put down by some person who

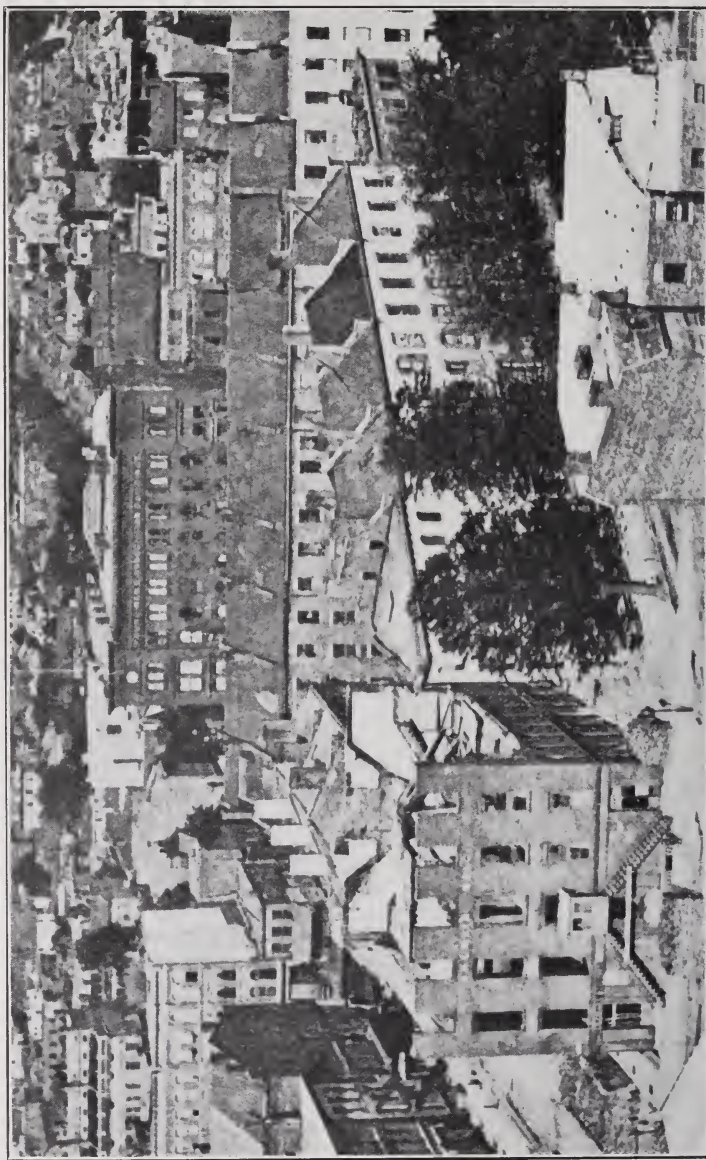


FROM NIAGARA SQUARE, LOOKING NORTHWEST. FROM A PHOTOGRAPH OF 1870.
AT THE RIGHT, THE NIAGARA SQUARE BAPTIST CHURCH, STILL STANDING, BUT ABANDONED FOR CHURCH USES, AND WITHOUT STEEPLES.



NIAGARA SQUARE, EAST AND NORTH SIDES, IN 1870.

AT THE EXTREME RIGHT APPEARS THE DAVID BURT RESIDENCE, LATER REBUILT INTO THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL.



VICINITY OF NIAGARA AND EAGLE STREETS, IN 1875.

AT THE LEFT FOREGROUND, RUINS OF KREMLIN HALL, BURNED FEB. 28, 1875. IN THE DISTANCE, THE YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION BUILDING, FORMERLY ST. JAMES HOTEL.

understands his business. The row on the Delaware street side of the square seem to have forgotten that it is no longer a burying ground and are all as dead as any soldier of the War of 1812."

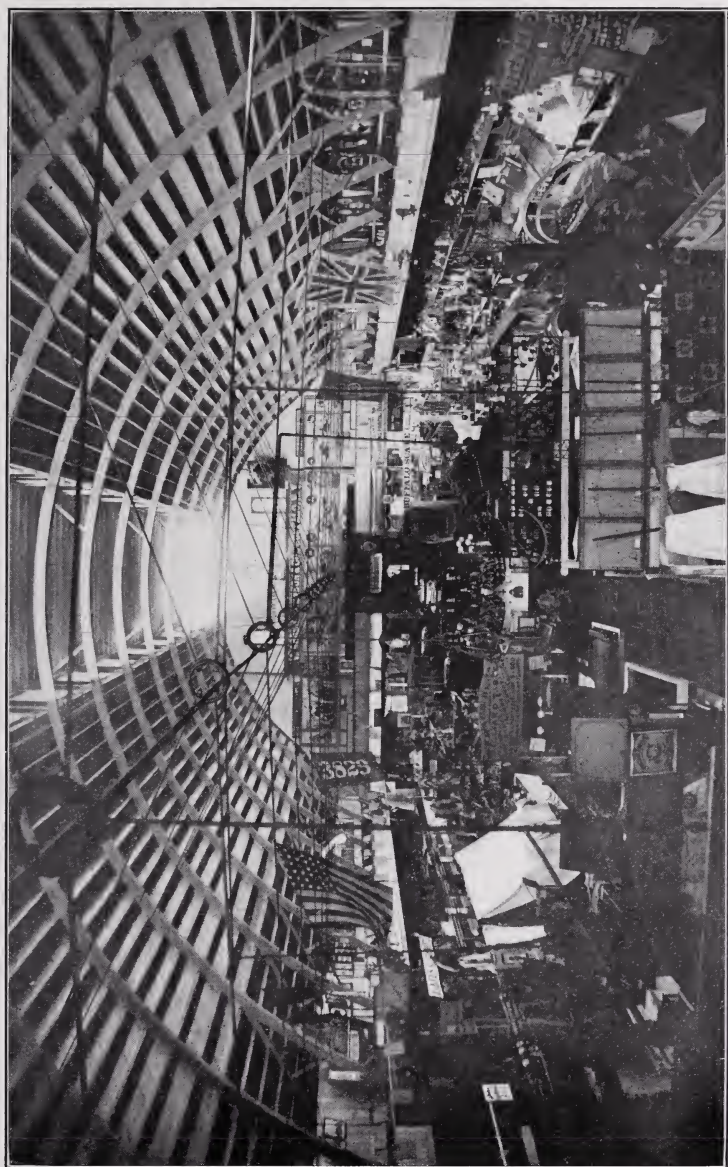
The next year the same journal suggested "that the Common Council grant the use of Franklin Square, for the remainder of the season, to the Volant Base Ball Club. At this time [September] the grass or the turf will not be injured, and our citizens can with less trouble witness this now popular sport." There are men in Buffalo, not very elderly, who still tell stories of ball-playing on Franklin Square. One of the accompanying views shows this ground as it was before the City Hall was built, with the Howard house at the northwest corner of Franklin and Church streets. On the northwest corner of Delaware and Church, is seen the substantial house, for many years the home of James L. Barton. That site is now occupied by the Erie County jail.

Several panoramic views in the vicinity of Niagara Square show how that neighborhood looked in the early '70's. Kremlin Hall, burned Feb. 28, 1875, had been dedicated June 25, 1855, by the Young Men's Christian Union, with a membership of 800. Its hall, when new, had cushioned seats, it is said, for a thousand people, and the special boast was made that it was gas-lighted. For twenty years it was a popular place for concerts and lectures.

The corner building shown in the view on page 228 was for many years Buffalo's postoffice. It was built and owned by Dr. C. C. Haddock, and was an example of quick work not often surpassed in modern days. Ground was broken for it, April 7, 1842, and on May 9th the Government moved in, abandoning the old Baptist church on the northeast corner (see p. 120) which had been used as postoffice for some



FRONT OF THE PEARL STREET RINK AFTER IT WAS CONVERTED INTO A FURNITURE STORE, 1881-1892.
IN RECENT YEARS REMODELED INTO A THEATER.



INTERIOR OF THE PEARL STREET RINK DURING AN INDUSTRIAL FAIR.



THE WEST SIDE OF PEARL STREET, BELOW NIAGARA, IN 1890.

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AFTER THE "OLD FIRST" WAS TORN DOWN AND BEFORE THE ERIE CO. SAVINGS BANK WAS ERECTED.



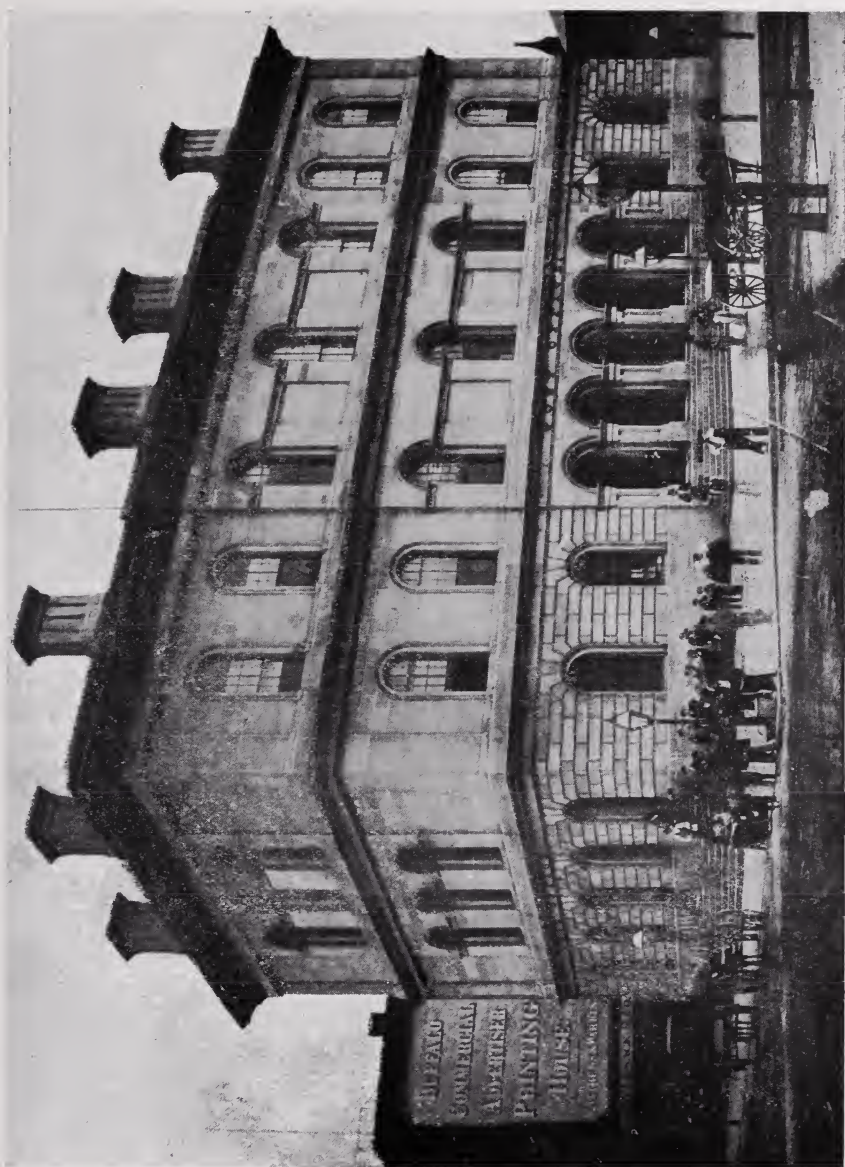
DRUG STORE OF JULIUS E. FRANCIS.

NO. 16 S. DIVISION STREET. MR. FRANCIS FOUNDED THE LINCOLN BIRTHDAY ASSOCIATION.



NORTHWEST CORNER, WASHINGTON AND SENECA STREETS.

THE CORNER STRUCTURE IN THE FOREGROUND, BUILT 1842, WAS THE BUFFALO POSTOFFICE FROM THAT DATE TILL 1858.
ALL THE BUILDINGS SHOWN WERE TORN DOWN, 1912, FOR THE NEW MARINE NATIONAL BANK BUILDING.



FEDERAL BUILDING (POST-OFFICE AND U. S. COURTS), NORTHEAST CORNER WASHINGTON AND SENECA STREETS.
 BUILT 1858, ENLARGED AND REMODELED 1885. NOT USED AS POST OFFICE SINCE MARCH, 1906.



OLD SWAN STREET RESIDENCES, TORN DOWN FOR THE NEW POSTOFFICE, 1894.
AT THE LEFT IS ELLICOTT STREET, LOOKING TOWARDS SOUTH DIVISION STREET.



OLD HOUSES, SWAN AND OAK STREETS, TORN DOWN 1894.

PRESENT SITE OF THE BUFFALO POSTOFFICE.



EAGLE-STREET THEATER, BUILT 1835. BUFFALO'S FIRST THEATER BUILDING.

LOOKING EAST ON EAGLE STREET. BEYOND, SOUTHEAST CORNER OF WASHINGTON, THE HOUSE OF DR. JOHN WINNE. THE THEATER SITE IS NOW OCCUPIED BY THE IROQUOIS HOTEL. FROM A DAGUERRETYPE OWNED BY THE BUFFALO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

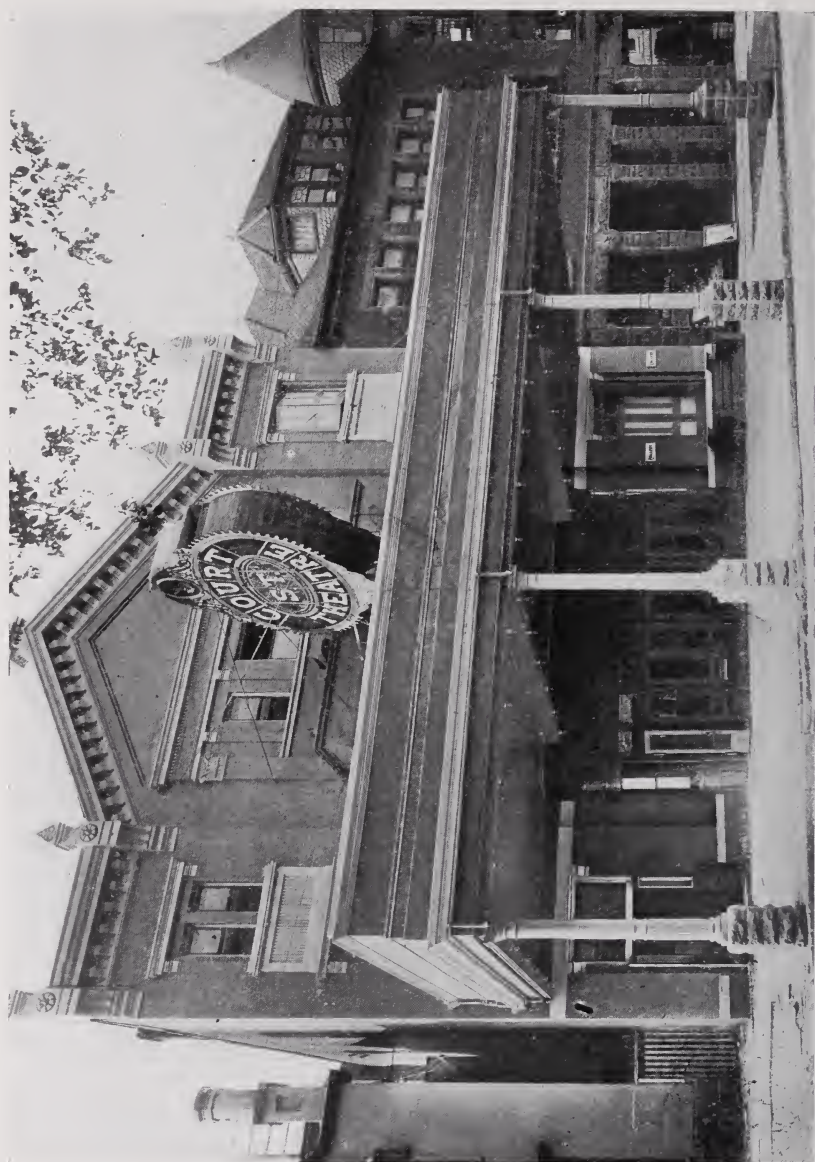
EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

years. The new building was 45 feet on Seneca by 65 feet on Washington street, was two stories high, of brick, and as described by a local paper, on its completion, was originally finished "with four stone columns supporting the work over the main entrance." These long since disappeared. The postoffice remained here until 1858, when it again moved back to the northeast corner of Seneca and Washington streets, in which year the Federal building (for post-office and United States Courts) was completed. This building was remodeled and enlarged in 1885, and still stands, but has not been used as postoffice since March, 1906, when the new Federal building was opened.

Although erected in 33 days, the Haddock building continued to serve the needs of many tenants for 70 years. For



ST. JAMES HALL, AFTER THE FIRE OF MARCH 18, 1887.



COURT STREET THEATER, OPENED AS WAHLE'S OPERA HOUSE, OCTOBER, 1882.

REPLACED BY THE PARK THEATER, NOW SHEA'S, 1905.



THE LYCEUM THEATER AS ORIGINALLY BUILT.

REMODELED, 1912-13.



OFFICE OF BRYAN'S "EVENING POST," 206 WASHINGTON STREET.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

years a restaurant in the basement, pleasantly styled by patrons as "The Sewer," was a popular resort and lunch-time rendezvous of many prominent citizens, of whom, in this connection, piquant anecdotes could be recorded; but, 'tis a pity, there is no room for story-telling here.



COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER OFFICE, BURNED DEC. 21, 1882.

IMMEDIATELY REPLACED BY THE PRESENT BUILDING.



NORTHEAST CORNER SWAN AND WASHINGTON STREETS.
AS IT WAS FOR SOME YEARS PRIOR TO ABOUT 1900. NOW WHOLLY REBUILT.

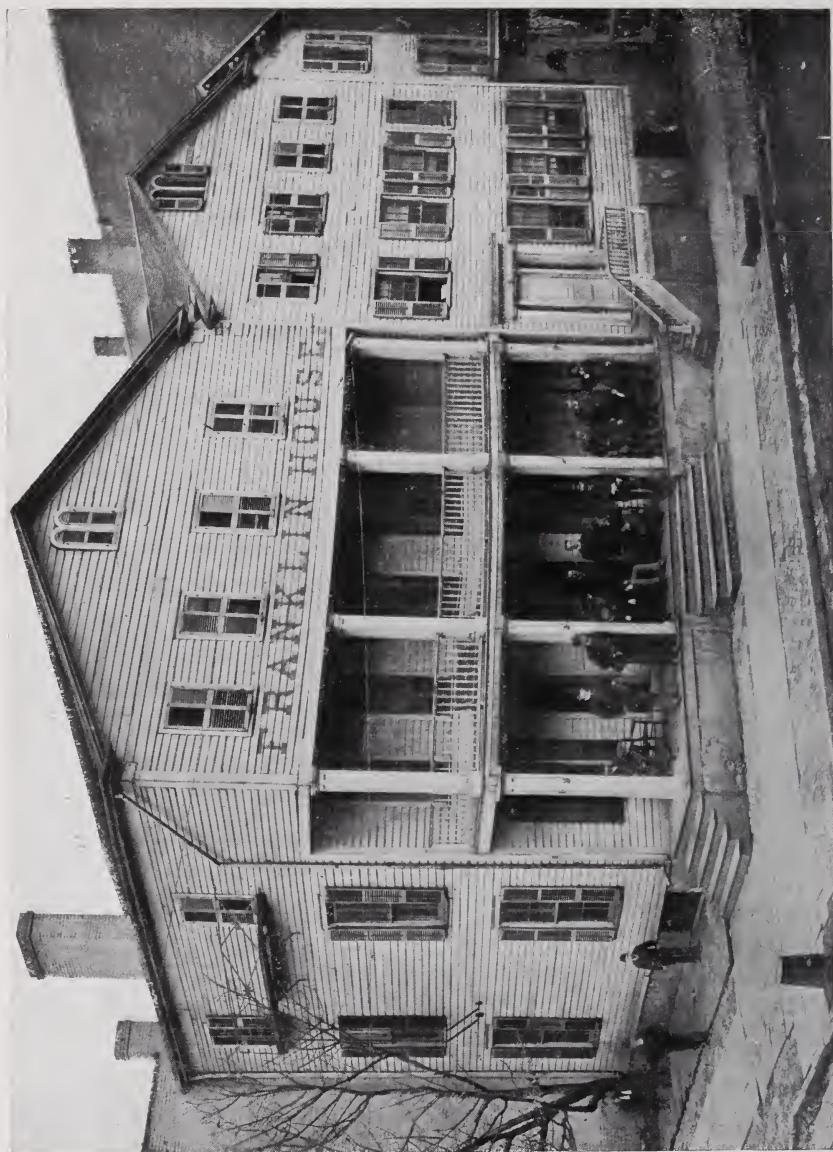


THE OLD FRANKLIN HOUSE, NORTHEAST CORNER ELLICOTT AND SENECA STREETS.

Among the treasures of the Historical Society is a daguerreotype showing Buffalo's first theater worthy the name, the Eagle Street theater. An enlarged engraving from that old daguerreotype is included in the present collection. (P. 232)

The building stood on a portion of the site of the present Iroquois hotel. It had a front on Eagle street of 70 feet, was 53 feet high and well built, its principal facade being of the blue-gray limestone found in nearby quarries. Its architect was C. F. Reichardt of New York City. The building was opened in October, 1835. A contemporary description speaks of it as in "pure Greek taste." A feature of the interior was a series of portraits of great actors, painters, and poets, which ornamented the first and second tiers of boxes. The color scheme was chiefly in blue and gold, and there was a dome, not circular, but in shape of an elongated semi-circle, resembling a fan spread out. On it were painted four figures, floating on the feathery clouds and scattering the fruits and flowers of the different seasons. "The drop curtain," to quote again from the old account, "represents rich drapery pendant from a medal at the top, on which is painted a buffalo; the medal is surrounded with zephyrs, seemingly supporting it, and strewing flowers around it. The drapery opens as it falls showing a landscape in the distance; an Indian stands solitarily in the foreground—it is Red Jacket; the sun is sinking behind the distant hill on the side of which rises the white man's village."

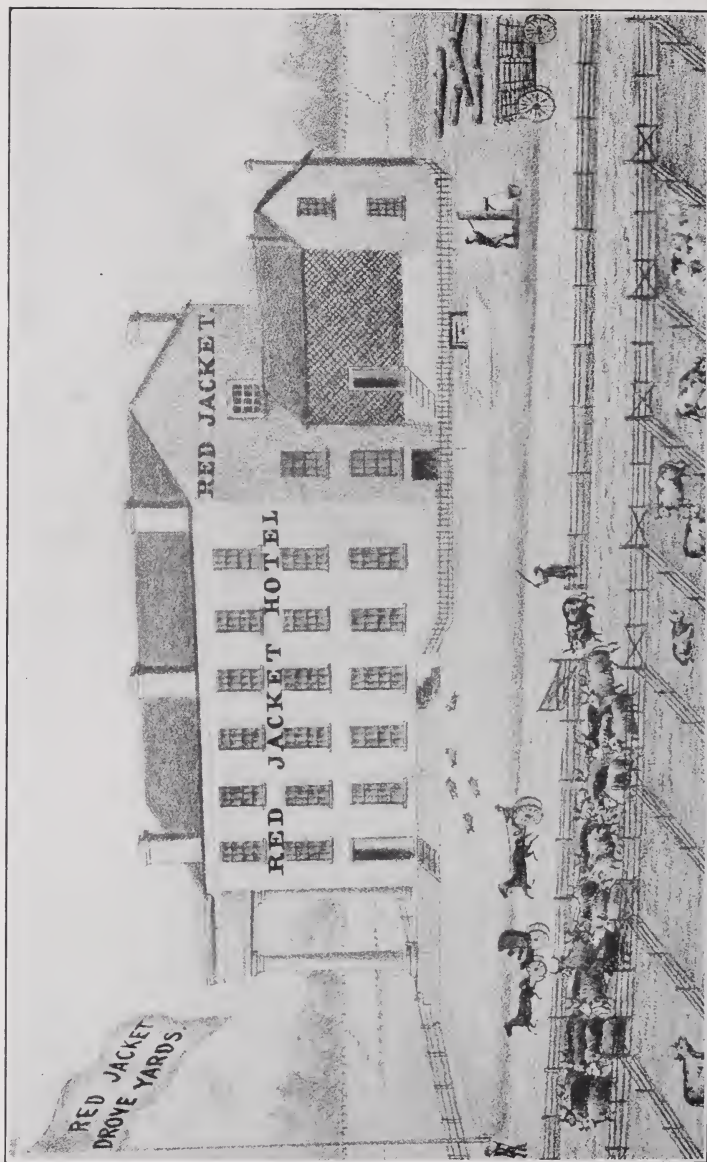
All of this, of course, was more or less symbolical of the rising Buffalo. It is interesting to note that this theater was the first building in Buffalo lighted with gas. It was erected and owned by Albert Brisbane.



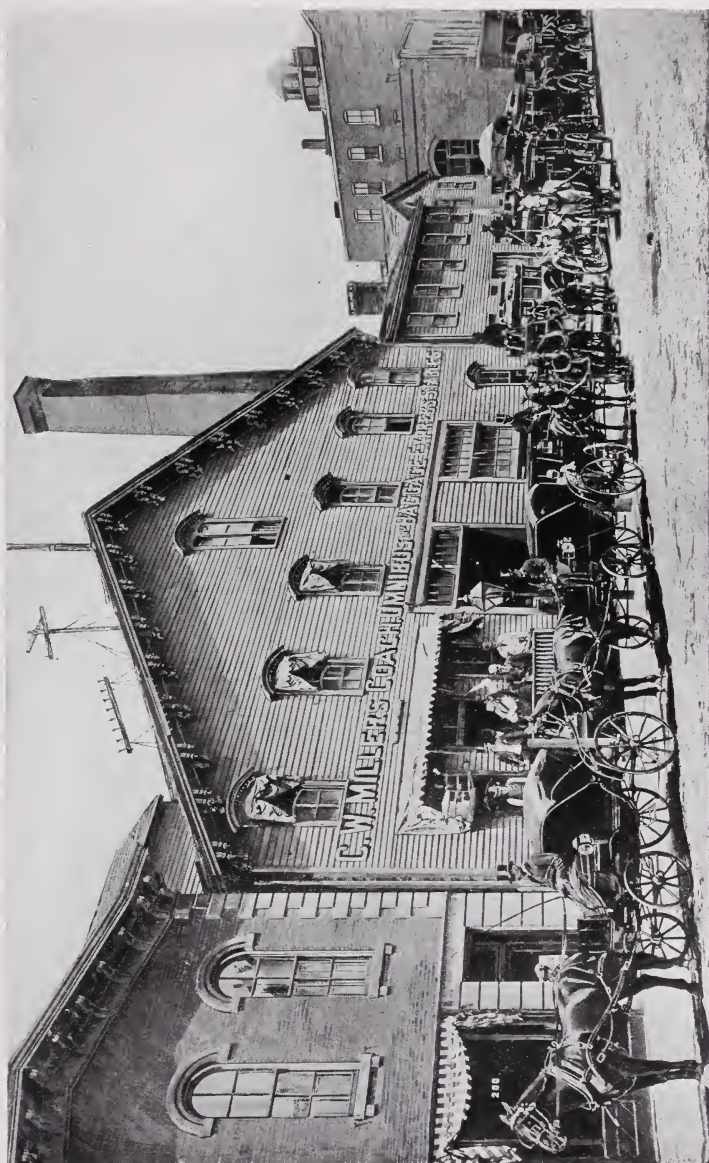
A NEAR VIEW OF THE FRANKLIN HOUSE.



BROWN'S HOTEL, SENECA AND MICHIGAN STREETS, 1857-1894.

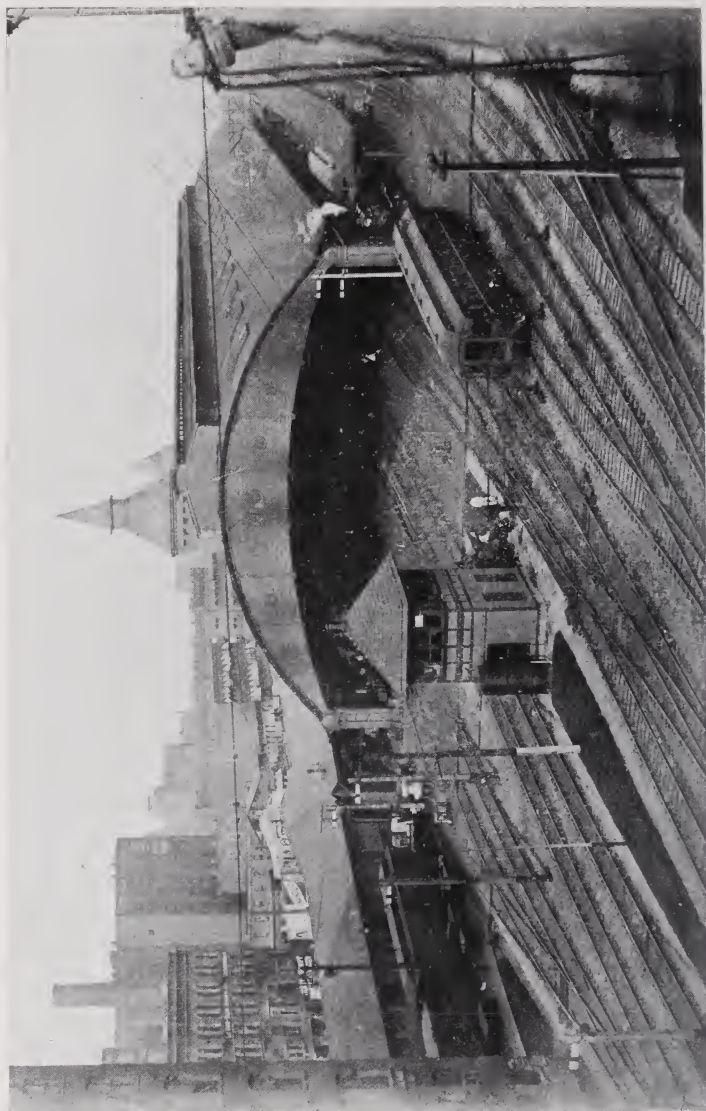


RED JACKET HOTEL, ELK AND SENECA STREETS.
ERECTED ABOUT 1845. BURNED JULY 18, 1878.



C. W. MILLER'S LIVERY STABLES AND ADJOINING BUILDINGS, PEARL STREET.

BUILT 1837. BURNED JANUARY 20, 1893. REPLACED BY THE REAL ESTATE EXCHANGE, NOW THE MUTUAL LIFE BUILDING, 1893.



THE OLD TRAIN SHED OF THE NEW YORK CENTRAL RAILROAD.



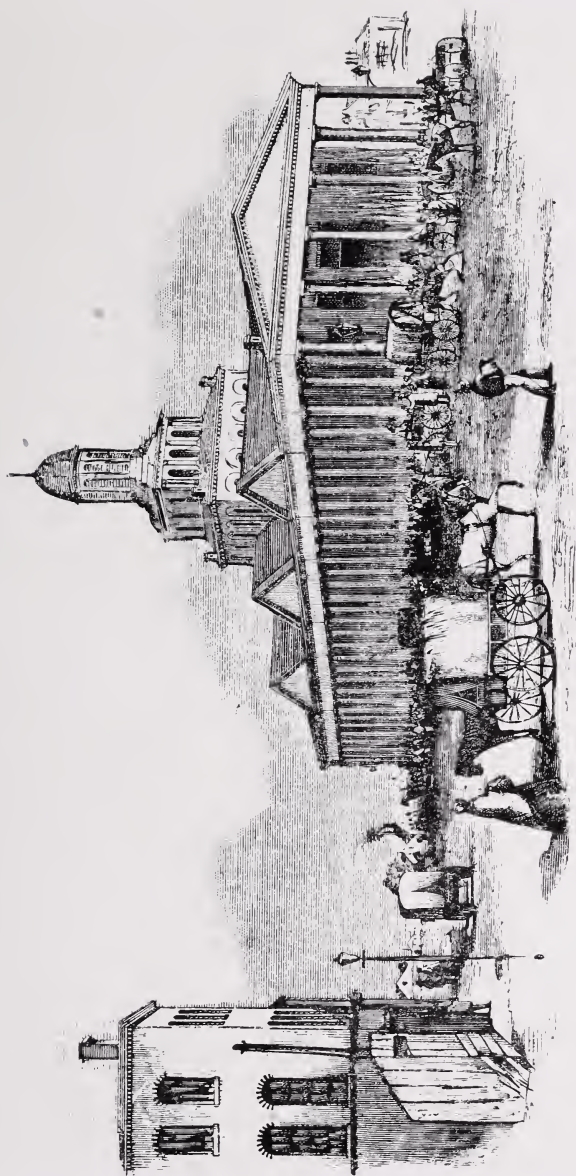
A BUFFALO RAILWAY STATION OF EARLIER YEARS.

THIS STRUCTURE, AT EXCHANGE AND LOUISIANA STREETS, WAS THE PASSENGER STATION OF THE B., N. Y. & P. RY.



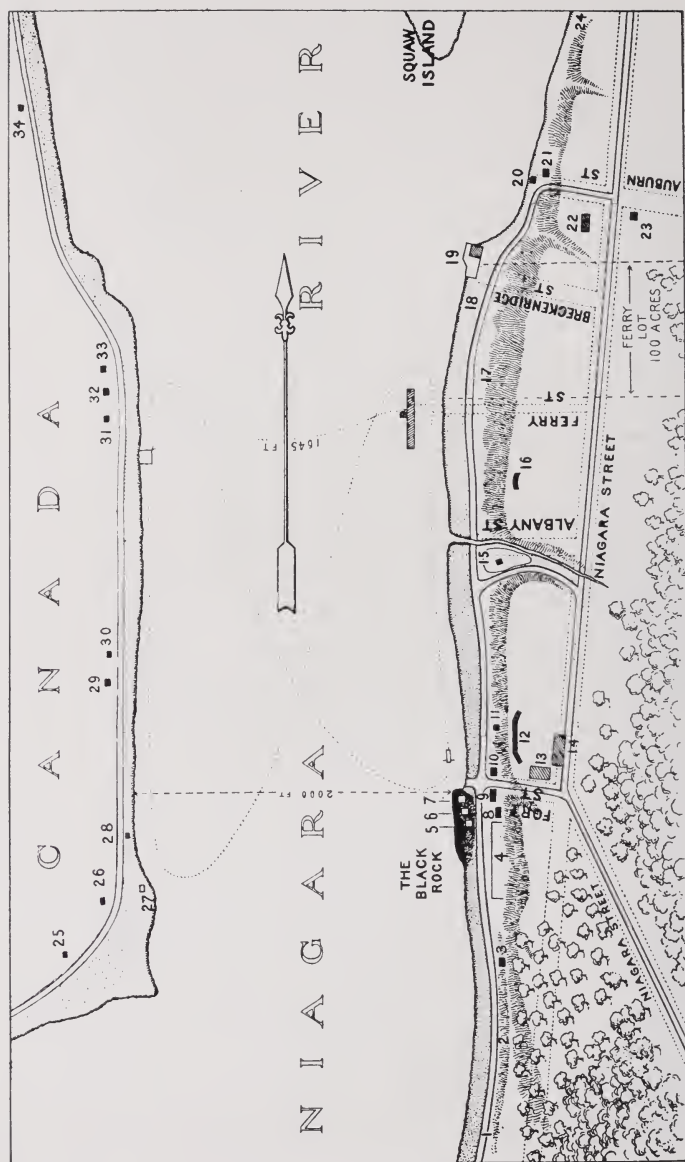
WASHINGTON AND GREEN STREETS, 1868.

SHOWING A REPUBLICAN PROCESSION IN OCTOBER OF THAT YEAR. GREEN STREET IS NOW MERGED IN THE N.Y. CENTRAL YARDS.



THE OLD ELK STREET MARKET.

AS PICTURED IN BALLOU'S "PICTORIAL DRAWING-ROOM COMPANION," 1855.



THE NIAGARA RIVER AND VICINITY AT BLACK ROCK, AS IT WAS PRIOR TO THE WAR OF 1812.
SEE DESCRIPTIVE DATA IN ACCOMPANYING TEXT.

EARLY BLACK ROCK FACTS

Herewith is published for the first time a map of a section of the Niagara river as it was before the War of 1812, showing the site of the old ferry at the foot of the Black Rock and many other data of value. Our engraving is from a sketch made from the original drawing owned by the Buffalo Historical Society. The original bears this inscription:

“Compiled and drawn from recollection and actual surveys and information furnished by Captain James Sloan, Lester Brace, Col. William A. Bird and E. D. Efner, Esq., by Henry Lovejoy, Surveyor, who was familiar with the location from 1810 to the present time.”

The date of Mr. Lovejoy's drawing was December, 1863. The information relative to the Canada side was furnished to Mr. Lovejoy by Alexander Douglas of Fort Erie. On the original drawing are written descriptive notes. These on the engraving are indicated by numerals, the explanation of which follows:

1. Starting at the left of the map on the American side is shown the main traveled road from Black Rock ferry to Buffalo before and during the War of 1812. It also ran to the eddy under Bird Island, where vessels discharged and received most of their freight. “The road was up and along the shore of the river and the beach of the lake to the mouth of the Big Buffalo creek; up the bank of the Big Buffalo



BLACK ROCK IN 1825.

DRAWN BY MILDRED C. GREEN FROM THE ORIGINAL SKETCH MADE BY GEORGE CATLIN, 1825, OWNED BY HON. PETER A. PORTER.



THE INTERNATIONAL CAR FERRY, FOOT OF PORTER AVENUE.

OPERATED BY THE BUFFALO & LAKE HURON RY. (NOW GRAND TRUNK), 1852-1872. DISCONTINUED ON COMPLETION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE. DRAWN BY MILDRED C. GREEN, FROM DATA SUPPLIED BY L. G. SELLESTEDT, ALFRED ELLERBY, AND OTHERS.



THE OLD CANAL LOCKS AT BLACK ROCK.

creek to the mouth of the Little Buffalo creek and up the bank of the Little Buffalo creek to its angle, now [1863] foot of Pearl street; thence direct to the Terrace at the junction of Main and Exchange streets."

2. Sand ridge behind which some men took shelter from the enemy's guns. They were engaged the day before Buffalo was burned in towing vessels belonging to Joshua Lovejoy up the rapids, when the enemy opened fire upon them. They were obliged to swing the vessel ashore and retreated behind the sand ridge, which was full protection. The vessel had several shot through her, but was not disabled. Her guns were soon brought to bear on the enemy and they were driven off. Dr. Trowbridge served one of our guns.

3. Site of Water-works, 1863.

4. Lester Brace's garden.

The Black Rock plainly shown on the diagram was a ledge or outcropping of the native country rock, narrowing at its southern end until it disappeared in the bank. At the northerly end it presented a broad line of cleavage forming a natural wharf, with a landing for boats somewhat protected from the force of the current. This rock was blown up and destroyed in 1825 when the canal was built. Three buildings stood on the rock, as follows:

5. A log house occupied by Orange Dean. Before the war he was employed at the old ferry. During the war it was occupied by E. D. Efner and from it he furnished clothing for Swift's regiment.

6. Clark's grocery and boarding-house.

7. Store built by Porter & Barton, and kept as a tavern during the war until Buffalo was burned, by Orange Dean. It had several shot through it from the enemy's guns. One,



RESIDENCE OF GEN. PETER B. PORTER, OVERLOOKING THE NIAGARA, NEAR FERRY STREET.
 BUILT 1816. FOR MANY YEARS THE RESIDENCE OF THE HON. LEWIS F. ALLEN, AND FOR A SHORT TIME OF HIS NEPHEW, GROVER CLEVELAND.
 LAND. TORN DOWN 1911.

while Dr. Trowbridge was dressing the wounds of some of the men who had been engaged in taking the brigs Adams and Caledonia.

8. Lester Brace's barn.

9. A building nearly in line of Fort street of later days, was a log house occupied before the war by Frederick Miller as the ferry-house and tavern. Occupied during the war by Holden Allen as a tavern until Buffalo was burned. Rebuilt after the war on the same location by Lester Brace and occupied by him as a tavern and the ferry-house for a long time.

Before leaving the Black Rock it may be noted that the ferry landing was in the protected angle at the north end of the ledge. The old ferry-boat was about 32 feet long by 8 feet wide, with two sweeps and a steering oar. The ferry charges were: per man, 2 shillings; man and horse, 4 shillings; one horse wagon, 10 shillings; two horse wagon, 12 shillings. The current at this point in the middle of the stream being about 6 to 7 miles an hour, the old route in crossing was to swing into the current and float down stream with it, gradually making the Canada shore at about the point near the figure 31 on our map. From that landing the boat made its way up stream close in shore until opposite the Black Rock, when it again swung out and was carried down stream to about the present Ferry street, whence it was rowed up to the rock. This route is shown by the light dotted line on the map.

10. Lorin Hodges' grocery after the war.

11. Log house occupied by the Widow O'Neil before the war. Her sons were sailors on the Lakes and one of them was in the Battle of Lake Erie.

12. A battery called Fort Adams.



THE GEN. PORTER HOUSE FROM THE RIVER SIDE.
FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN ABOUT 1900, SOME TEN YEARS AFTER THE DEATH OF HON. LEWIS F.
ALLEN, WHO HAD RESIDED THERE SINCE 1836.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

13. Barracks burned by the enemy's shot the day of the Queenston battle, October 12, 1812.

14. Barracks burned by Col. Bisshopp in his attack on Black Rock, July, 1813.

15. Log house occupied by the Widow Sidney before the War. Here boarded Peter Colt who was engaged in lake transportation business. Mrs. Sidney was subsequently the wife of Zenas Barker. The line around the house indicates the old garden, a part of which is now Albany street.

16. A battery of the War of 1812; the site afterwards included in Col. Bird's garden.

17. Where Capt. Saunders was shot at the time of Col. Bisshopp's attack on Black Rock. The ball entering his left breast, passed directly through his body. He was taken to Gen. Porter's house and later to Major Miller's, at the Cold Spring. He was attended by Dr. Trowbridge and recovered.

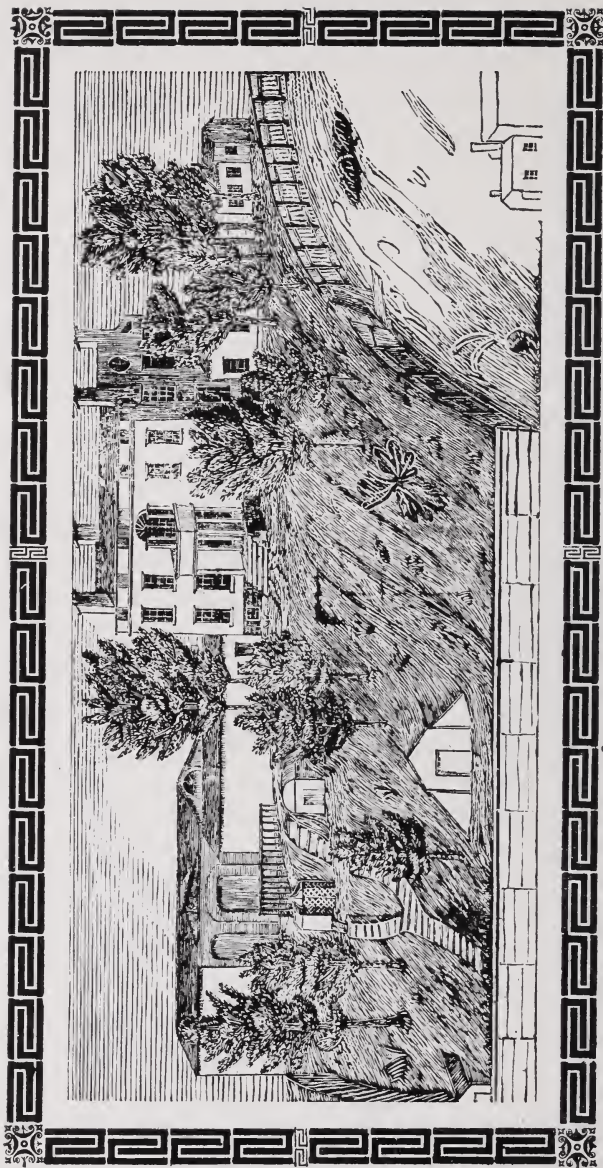
18. Where Col. Hough Cuyler was killed at the time of the taking of the brigs Adams and Caledonia. This is near the foot of the present Breckenridge street.

19. Porter & Barton's dock and warehouse before and after the war. On this dock and along the high shore adjoining, great quantities of salt for the West were often piled. From this dock the steamer Walk-in-the-Water started on her first trip.

20. A contractor's store, foot of present Auburn avenue.

21. Nathaniel Sill's store.

22. Gen. Porter's house before and during the war, until Buffalo was burned. It had several holes through it, made by cannon balls, and was rebuilt on the same foundation after the war and was owned by Capt. James Rough. It was later known as the Robie house.



A VERY EARLY ENGRAVING OF GEN. PORTER'S HOUSE AT BLACK ROCK.

THIS CRUDE WOODCUT, 7 BY 13 INCHES IN THE ORIGINAL, WAS ENGRAVED BY H. MERRILL, OF BUFFALO, PROBABLY ABOUT 1835, WHEN THE FIRST RAILROAD TO THE FALLS WAS BUILT THROUGH THE PORTER GROUNDS, AND A FENCE WAS ERECTED. CRUDE AS IT IS, THIS INTERESTING PICTURE WELL SHOWS THE OLD MANSION, THE ICE-HOUSE IN THE BANK, THE STEPS THAT FORMERLY LED TO THE RIVER, AND THE VARIOUS OUTBUILDINGS.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

23. Field's tavern. Auburn avenue from present Niagara street to the river and that vicinity was the scene of the principal fighting in the Battle of Black Rock.

24. Just beyond the margin of the map is the site of the old shipyard, where the Walk-in-the-Water was built.

25. House of ——— Bean, who cleared the first farm in this neighborhood. The following data written on the margin of the old map may be recorded here:

"Jane Warren, now Mrs. Hardison, was the first white female child born at Fort Erie, 1782; Edward Warren, first white male child born at Fort Erie, 1780; John Warren Seign of the British commissariat, resided at Fort Erie, 1777. Jonathan and Joseph Sill resided at Fort Erie and kept a tavern in 1802. ——— Skinner kept a tavern at Fort Erie, 1802."

26. John Garner, the first schoolmaster, Fort Erie, 1784.

27. ——— Dunbar built a log mill here which was carried down the river in a storm, 1804. The red mill was built here some time after the war.

28. Henry Windecker kept the first old ferry, 1789.

29. Store of Alexander Douglass, in the fur trade, 1785.

30. ——— Murphy, 1790. Benjamin Hardison, 1794.

31. John Warren's Store, 1801.

32. Capt. ——— Lewis. He kept the ferry after the War of 1812.

33. Tavern kept by ——— Moody. Afterwards by ——— Trout, 1800.

34. ——— Gilmore, 1795. Benjamin Wintermuit settled about one mile below the present ferry, 1798. On the river road, a short distance below Gilmore's, was Archibald Bowen's house, 1790. It is not shown on the map.



THE ROUGH-ROBIE HOUSE, WEST SIDE OF NIAGARA STREET, NEAR AUBURN AVENUE.
BUILT ABOUT 1820, ON THE FOUNDATIONS OF GEN. PORTER'S FIRST HOUSE. FOR SOME YEARS THE HOME OF CAPT. JAMES ROUGH;
LATER OF DR. JOHN E. ROBIE. TORN DOWN, 1912.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

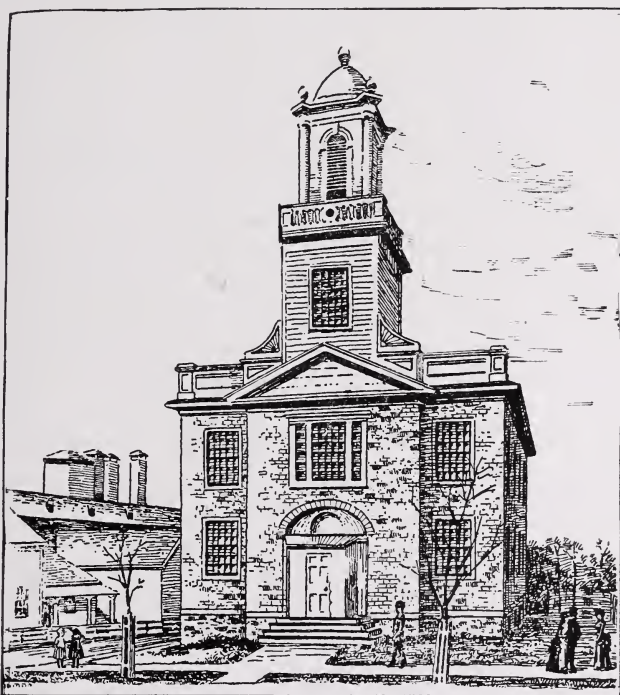
The above data are given in substantially the same language as is found on the old map.

The following notes also appear in the margin:

"Niagara street was cut out in 1809, but was not traveled much for loads until after the war."

Regarding the ferry lot of one hundred acres, shown on the map, this is the statement as it appears:

"April 15, 1803, the Commissioners of the Land Office instructed the Surveyor General to survey and ascertain and report the bounds of the 100 acres directed to be leased with the ferry at or near Black Rock and such other lands



BRECKENRIDGE-ST. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

BUILT 1831, STILL STANDING, MUCH CHANGED. OLDEST CHURCH BUILDING
IN THE CITY.



THE WILLIAM A. BIRD HOUSE, NIAGARA STREET. BUILT 1819. TAKEN DOWN 1911.

as might be required to accommodate said ferry agreeable to an Act passed April 6, 1803."

Also the following:

"ALBANY, April 4, 1807.

"To SIMEON DE WITT, Esq.,

"Surveyor General.

"Sir. Agreeable to your instructions I have performed a part of the survey assigned me preparatory to the sale of land in the vicinity of Black Rock. I have laid out the street running from Black Rock to Buffalo and have placed posts at the corners of the squares and also most of the blocks lying north and west of the public squares.

[Signed]

"ALEXANDER REA."

This is the official report of the original survey of what became Niagara street. It was not open through the woods until two years later, 1809.

The early picture of Black Rock, by George Catlin, is of exceptional interest. The faded original was found, by Hon. Peter A. Porter, among the papers of his grandfather, Gen. Peter B. Porter, who in 1816 built the house pictured on page 256, and resided there until 1836. He was the best-known man on the frontier at that period, and all travelers of note were welcomed at his mansion. George Catlin, America's most distinguished painter of Indians, had gained a reputation as early as 1824, in which year he was made an academician of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. At this period he often traveled about the country, making studies of famous Indians; and it is understood that while Gen. Porter's guest, he met Red Jacket, who was often at the Porter house. If the date ascribed to the sketch of Black Rock harbor, 1825, is correct, the



HOUSE BUILT BY NATHANIEL SILL, NIAGARA STREET, NEAR AUBURN, 1822.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

artist was apparently at Gen. Porter's house more than once, for it was in 1829 or 1830 that he painted his famous portrait of Red Jacket. "I painted his portrait," says Catlin, "from the life, in the costume in which he is represented, and indulged him also in the wish he expressed, that he might be seen standing on the Table Rock, at the Falls of Niagara, about which place he thought his spirit would linger after he was dead." It is wholly plausible that it was at Gen. Porter's house, at a meeting with Red Jacket, that the artist made preliminary studies of him; and it is not unlikely that, seated on the river-side veranda, Catlin made the water-color sketch of the scene as he looked out over the harbor. His drawing is faithfully reproduced, much reduced in size, in our engraving.

No dwelling in Buffalo, at any time, or on the Niagara frontier, has surpassed the Porter house in historic association. In Gen. Porter's time, we know that among his guests were Lafayette, John Quincy Adams, De Witt Clinton and others of high distinction, both Americans and foreigners. While the house was owned and occupied by Hon. Lewis F. Allen, his guests included Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, Gen. Winfield Scott and many other officers of the United States army; Governors Marcy, Seward, Bouck and King of New York State; Governor Talmadge of Wisconsin, Thurlow Weed, and scores of prominent statesmen and politicians. His Buffalo neighbor, Millard Fillmore, was often his guest; and Grover Cleveland, Mr. Allen's nephew, was for a time a member of his household.

One of our pictures shows the house as seen from Niagara street, in the '80's. It was even then shorn of much of its earlier attractiveness. Two other views, one an early woodcut, show the river side of it. When built, the

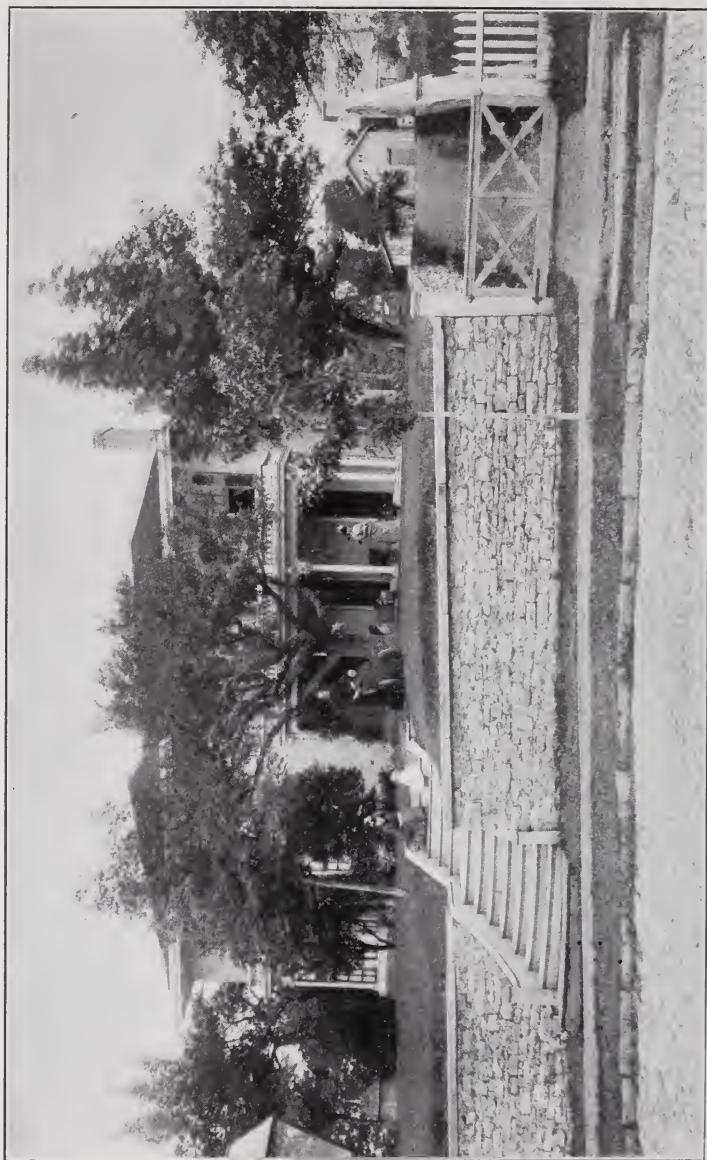


THE ORRIN STICKNEY HOUSE, NIAGARA STREET NEAR
BRECKENRIDGE. BUILT IN 1819 OR 1820.



HOUSE OF CAPT. WALTER NORTON.
NIAGARA STREET, NORTH OF BRECKENRIDGE.

house was surrounded by five acres of ground reaching from the west side of Niagara street to the natural shore of the river. The elevation of most of the ground is 25 feet above the water. About 150 feet from the river front of the house and rear of the outer buildings a rather steep slope descended to a lower level five or six feet above the stream. On the slope were also built an ornamental summer house and four other small buildings, two on each side, ice-house, smoke-house, etc. Near the margin of the river was excavated a capacious artificial fish-pond, stored with muscalonge, spotted pickerel, yellow pike and other choice fish for family consumption, then abounding in the water opposite, and drawn out by seines of the fishermen of the neighborhood. Throughout the grounds were planted many fruit trees. On the street front of the out-buildings was laid out an ample garden. In front of the house was a lawn about 250 feet wide reaching to the highway entrance, the name of the "street" not then having entered the vocabulary of the place. The lawn, then called a "dooryard," was entered by a wide carriage and foot way, which led to the front door of the house, encircling by two branches, about midway of its approach, an area of grass-plat bordered by rows of shrubbery and flowering plants; beyond were planted native trees taken from the original forests near by. A high picketed fence with a broad gate bordered the highway, its frequent posts topped with large bombshells, relics of the War of 1812-15. A large cannon, once in hostile service, was planted perpendicularly at the division of the entrance passage from the gate around the circle. All these war-like appendages gave a somewhat military character to the place. One by one, as the years passed, they disappeared.



THE HULL THOMPSON HOUSE, NORTHWEST CORNER NIAGARA AND FERRY STREETS.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

The house as originally built was 50 feet long and 40 feet wide, two stories high, rising about thirty feet above the ground, with a low wooden wing adjoining its northerly end, containing a wood-house and other attachments, extending 100 feet to the carriage-house and stable. The wood-house was entered from a partially elevated underground room beneath the house. These lower rooms contained General Porter's private office, a kitchen, wash-room, closets, cellar, hall and stairs, giving access to the upper apartments, all well lighted by above-ground windows. The outer walls from foundation to roof were of stone two feet thick. The inner partition walls of the several rooms from bottom to roof were of brick, about one foot thick. The main floor above ground was divided by a center hall ten feet wide, running from the front to the rear door, entered at the street front by a modest porch, elevated about four feet above the ground. On the rear front (the house really had two fronts equally ornate in finish, the one overlooking the river landscape, altogether the more attractive) was a moderate-sized veranda with an upper outlook on its flattened roof, on which a door opened from the second story hall. On the main floor were a sitting and dining-room on the north, and a double roomed parlor occupied the south side of the hall. A broad flight of stairs led from the latter to the chambers, which were equally divided like the rooms below them. A broad garret surmounted all, over which a suitably-pitched wooden roof gave protection.

Such was the house when Mr. Allen took it in 1836. A wing on the north end, and a new carriage-house and stables, were built later. The interior finish of the house was always good. There were handsome cornices above

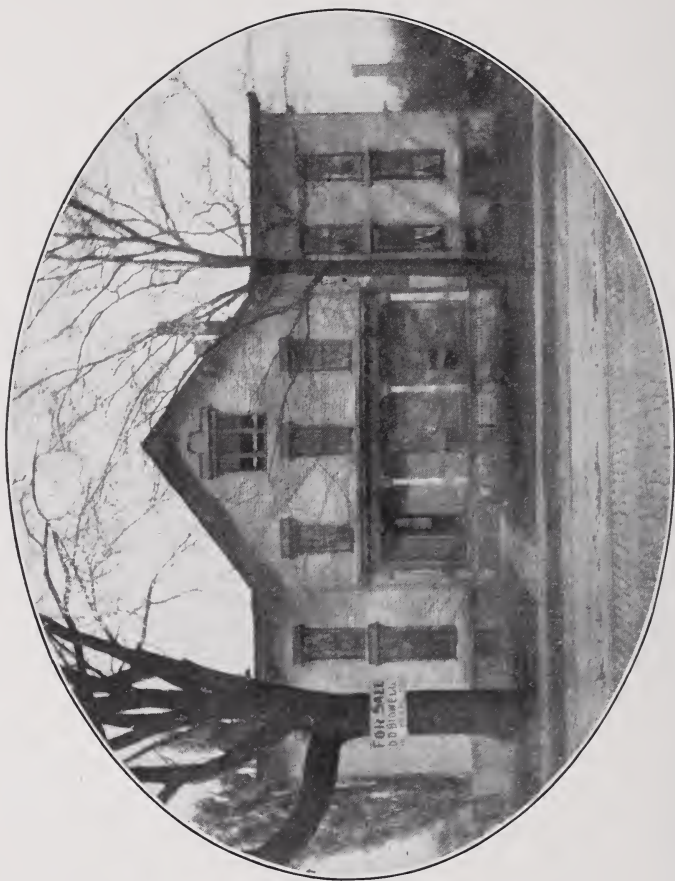


THE MASON HOUSES, NIAGARA STREET NORTH OF BRECKENRIDGE.
THE BLACK ROCK POSTOFFICE, AT A VERY EARLY DATE, WAS IN THE BUILDING AT THE RIGHT; DANIEL
HIBBARD, POSTMASTER.

the door-frames, with some carving, fine old glass door-knobs, marble mantels and other appointments of an old-time, well-built house.

Many a resident of Buffalo has expressed the wish that this fine place, for so many years the home of two of Buffalo's most distinguished citizens—one of them our chief soldier in the days of 1812, and later Secretary of War—might have been spared and preserved, perhaps as an historical museum. But encroachment upon it began early. In the construction of the Black Rock pier, 1823-'25, a portion of the river several rods wide was enclosed. When the Erie canal was built, the fish-pond was cut away. Under Mr. Allen's ownership, the Buffalo, Lockport & Niagara Falls Railroad (now New York Central) ploughed its way through what had been the beautiful river-side lawn, ruining the summer-house and orchard, the rails being laid within 120 feet of the dwelling. Later, a part of the grounds was sold for building lots. Still later, some years after Mr. Allen's death, the site was acquired for a great factory, which literally built around the old house. The one-time residence was for a period put to various factory uses, and was then torn down. Not a vestige remains of the most historic house of Buffalo.

For many years the Porter-Allen house was the oldest house—at least the oldest good house—in Buffalo. It dated from 1816. The house at No. 2485 Main street, a small one-story frame construction, is said to date from 1809. On the southeast corner of Washington and Eagle streets, in 1816 or 1817, Isaac Kibbe built a substantial brick house, which, after Mr. Kibbe, was long occupied by Dr. Charles Winne. This house is fairly well shown in the picture of the Eagle-street theater on page 232. Many changes have



HOME OF ROBERT AND ASA HART, NIAGARA STREET, NORTH OF ALBANY STREET.

come to it, in its well nigh a century of existence; but the building now on that corner stands at least in part on the old foundation, and retains a part of the walls of the original house. It is believed to be the oldest existing masonry in Buffalo.

Neighbor to the Allen place on Niagara street was the Wm. A. Bird house, built 1819, and for ninety years or so the home of a family whose history will always be a worthy part of the history of Buffalo. Four generations were at home in its spacious rooms, and deep old garden. When new, its principal front was towards the river. It suffered on that side, as the Porter place suffered; but it continued a fine home until very recent years.

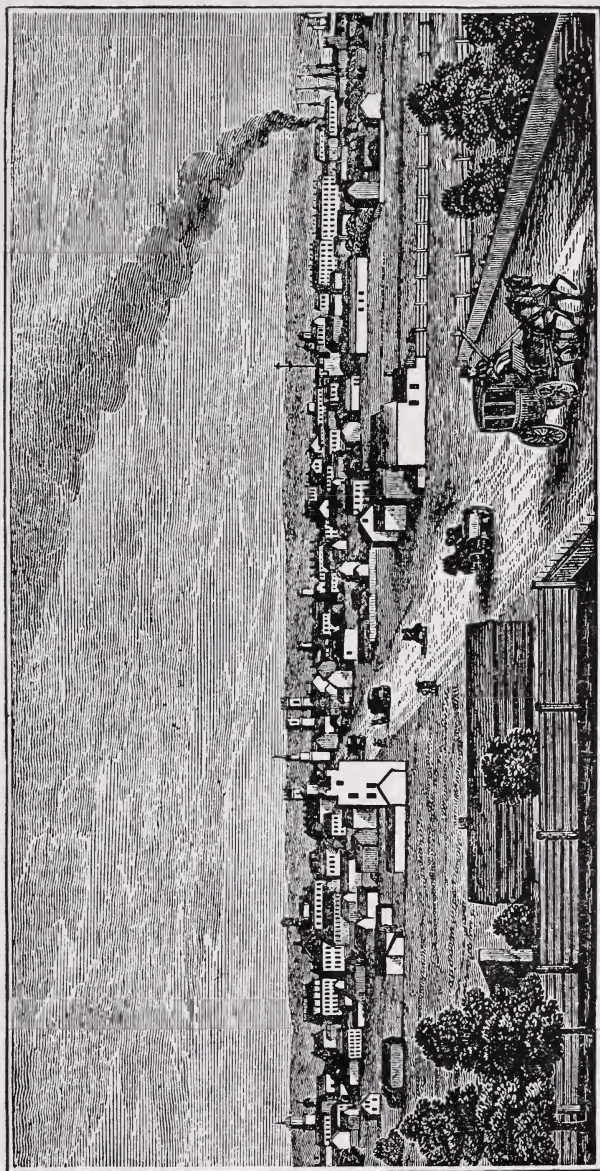
Near by was the old Breckenridge-street Presbyterian church, built 1831, and last used for church service, Sept. 16, 1888. The old building, still standing, but much altered and put to secular uses, is the oldest structure erected as a church, in Buffalo.

A paragraph on page 259 summarizes the interesting early history of the Captain Rough house at No. 1266 Niagara street, known to a later generation as "Deacon" Robie's. The Rev. John E. Robie, for many years editor of the *Buffalo Christian Advocate*, resided here from 1854 till his death in 1872. The house had various tenants thereafter, but disappeared in 1912. Its site is now covered by a factory.

A woodcut "View of Buffalo from the northwest," was printed in Barber & Howe's "Historical Collections of the State of New York" in 1841. It is apparently a view looking down Niagara street towards Main. The stagecoach, on its way to Black Rock, is perhaps as far out as Virginia street. But one column of black smoke rises over the town,



THE HENRY THORNTON HOUSE, FERRY STREET AND WEST AVENUE.
ORIGINAL NO. 18 SCHOOL.



BUFFALO FROM THE NORTHWEST; VIEW PUBLISHED IN 1841.

FROM BARBER & HOWE'S "HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK." THE STREET IS NIAGARA, LOOKING TOWARDS MAIN.



NIAGARA STREET, NEAR AMHERST, IN THE EARLY '70's.



THE COMMANDANT'S HOUSE AT FORT PORTER, KNOWN AS THE CASTLE.

ORIGINALLY THE RESIDENCE OF COL. JAMES M'KAY, BUILT 1837; BIRTHPLACE OF HIS SON, STEELE MACKAYE, 1844.

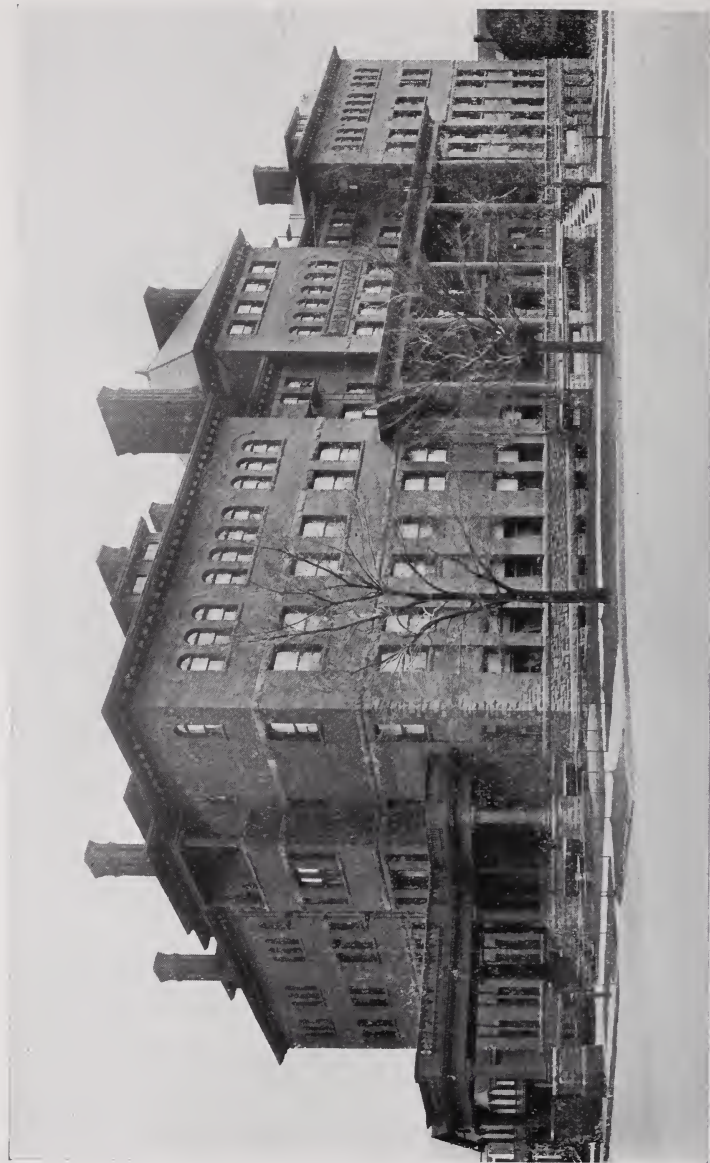


THE MAGAZINE AT FORT PORTER IN ITS LAST DAYS.
BEGUN 1843, FINISHED 1850, BURNED 1867, TORN DOWN 1888.



DEMOLITION OF THE OLD MAGAZINE AT FORT PORTER.

VIEW TAKEN NOV. 17, 1888; JUST BEFORE THE LAST BLAST.



THE NIAGARA HOTEL, PORTER AVENUE. BUILT 1887, TAKEN DOWN 1911.



VIEW IN THE CENTRAL COURT OF THE NIAGARA HOTEL.



THE EDWIN THOMAS HOUSE, RHODE ISLAND STREET AND FRONT AVENUE.

BECAME THE CHURCH HOME, 1866. THE PICTURE SHOWS IT SOON AFTER ERECTION OF THE ORPHANS' WARD, 1860.



THE OLD CHURCH HOME IN ITS LATTER DAYS.
SUCCEEDED BY MODERN BUILDINGS, AND TORN DOWN, 1904.



THE BUFFALO ORPHAN ASYLUM, VIRGINIA STREET.

SOCIETY ORGANIZED IN 1836. BUILDING ERECTED 1850, ENLARGED 1878, TORN DOWN 1913.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

from a steamboat in the harbor. With so little smoke and so many churches, Buffalo in 1841 was evidently blessed with both godliness and cleanliness.

Some of our pictures are of buildings so recently removed that many a resident who had not lately visited that part of the city, would hardly believe they had gone. The demolition of the attractive Niagara Hotel, with its pleasant outlook, its court of palms and broad verandas, will always be regretted by all who had enjoyed its comforts.

The old Homeopathic Hospital was another building that is missed. This institution, incorporated in 1872, opened its doors to its first patient, a man with tuberculosis, in June of that year in the Evans house, corner of Washington and



THE NELSON WILLARD HOUSE, NORTHWEST CORNER VERMONT
AND SEVENTH STREETS.

SITE NOW OCCUPIED BY THE WESTGATE APARTMENTS.



BUFFALO HOMEOPATHIC HOSPITAL, SOUTHWEST CORNER COTTAGE AND MARYLAND STREETS.
FORMERLY THE BIDWELL HOMESTEAD, BUILT ABOUT 1840; USED AS HOSPITAL, 1874-1911; ENLARGED, 1884; TORN DOWN, 1912.

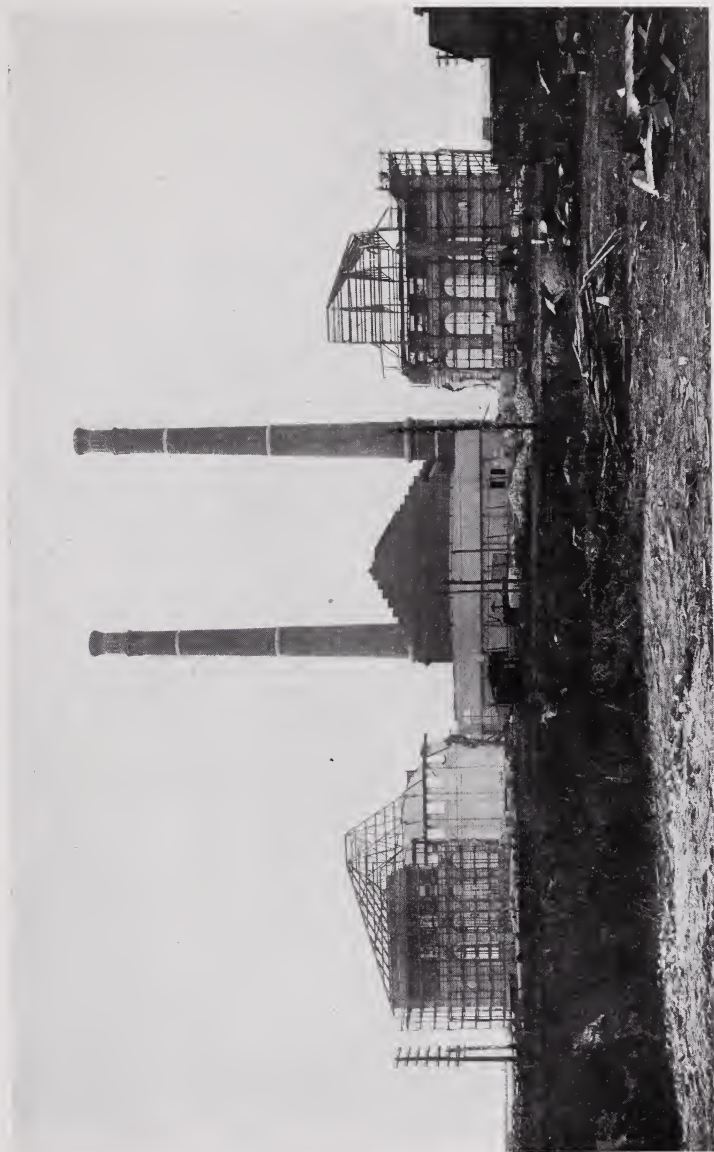


SPRING HOUSE OF THE JUBILEE WATER WORKS, CORNER DELAWARE AND AUBURN AVENUES.

BUILT 1830. WATER FROM THIS SPRING WAS USED BY BLACK ROCK FOR MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS.



THE CITY WATER WORKS BEFORE RECONSTRUCTION.



PUMPING STATION OF BUFFALO WATER WORKS, FOOT OF PORTER AVENUE.

COLLAPSED BEFORE COMPLETION, JUNE 30, 1911.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

North Division streets, with beds for three patients. Here it remained for two years when the trustees bought the property known as the Bidwell homestead on the southeast corner of Cottage and Maryland streets. The original building was probably erected in the early forties. The



PIERCE'S PALACE HOTEL, PROSPECT AVENUE.

BUILT 1877, BURNT 1881. SITE NOW IN PART OCCUPIED BY D'YOUVILLE COLLEGE.

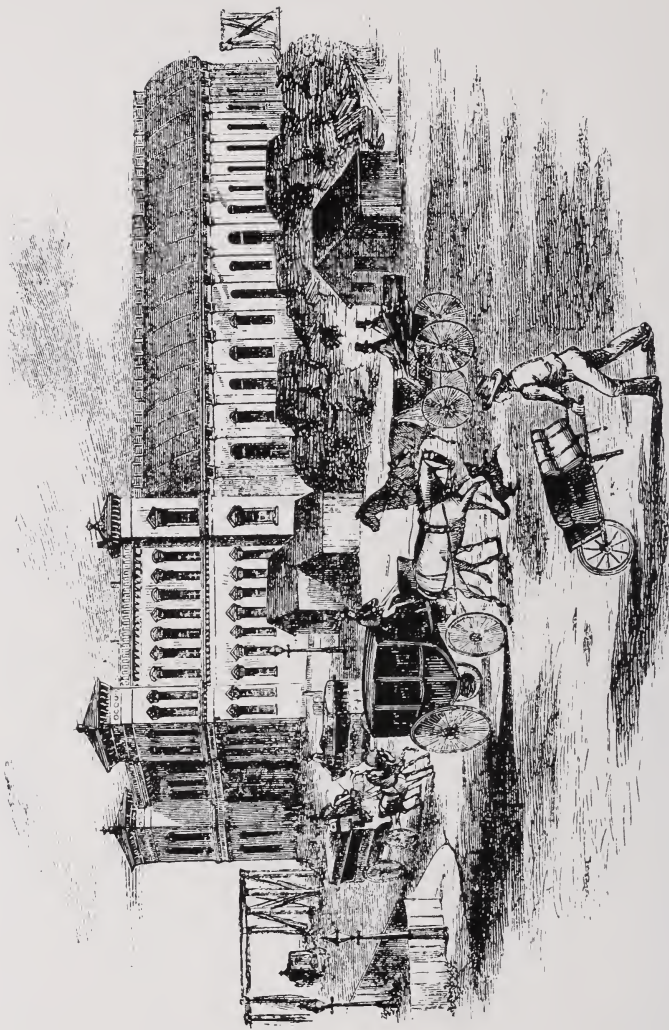
EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

summer of 1874 saw the patients installed in the house, which was then large enough to accommodate the few patients of those early days. One by one changes were made as needed until under the pressing need of more room an addition, corner of Maryland and Twelfth street, was built in 1884. The new hospital, corner Lafayette and



RUINS OF DR. R. V. PIERCE'S PALACE HOTEL.

BURNED FEB. 16, 1881.



THE ERIE-STREET RAILWAY STATION AS PICTURED IN 1855.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

Linwood avenues, was formally opened and dedicated on June 3 and 4, 1911. The old hospital building was demolished during the summer of 1912 to make room for a number of two-flat houses.

One of our pictures shows the lately-demolished Plymouth Methodist Episcopal Church. This organization is a growth from two sources: One a Sunday school started in a building erected by Jesse Ketchum on the ground now occupied by the State Normal School; the other a society called "North Street Church," worshipping in a frame building erected on a lot in what is now Prospect avenue,



THE ERIE STREET STATION IN ITS LAST DAYS.

USED BY THE GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

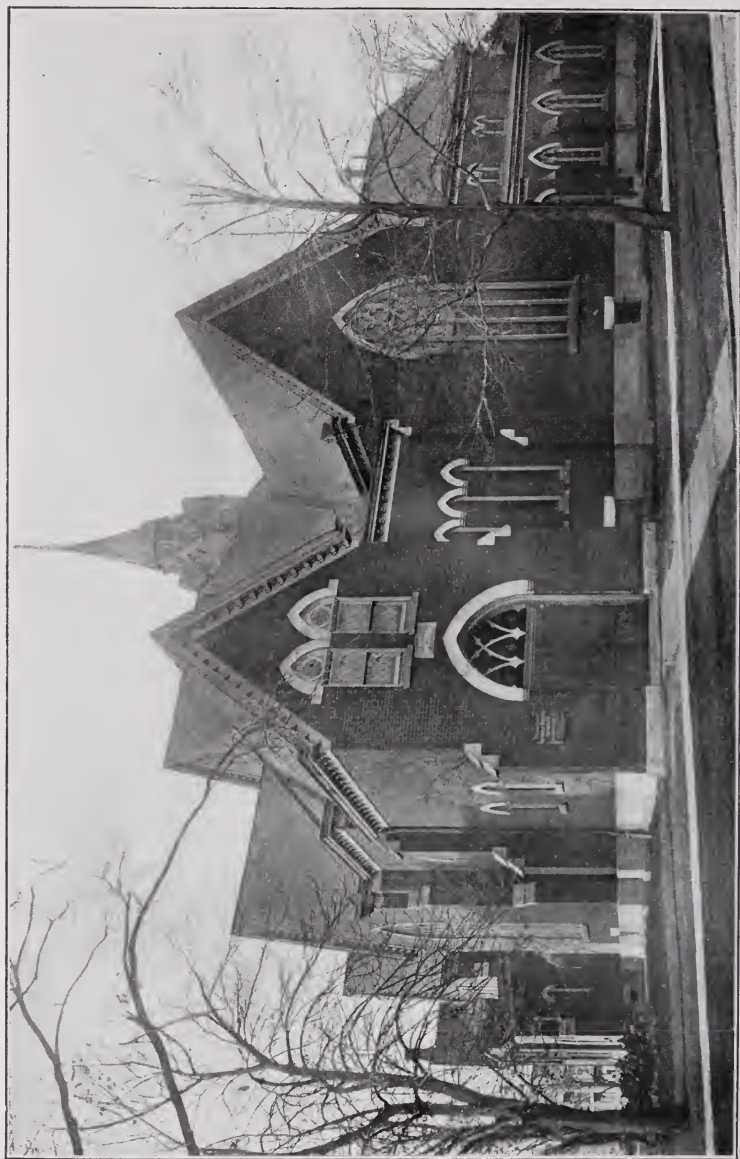


OLD BUFFALO COTTON FACTORY, FOOT OF COURT STREET, CANAL FRONT.

ERECTED, 1844; CONVERTED INTO A MALT HOUSE BY LYMAN L. AND CHAS. G. CURTISS IN THE FALL OF 1861, AND SOLD TO A. M'PERSON IN 1873. IN 1875 IT PASSED INTO THE HANDS OF THE BUFFALO GRAPE SUGAR CO.



CURTISS & CO.'S EMPIRE MALT HOUSE IN THE '60'S.



PLYMOUTH M. E. CHURCH, AT JERSEY STREET, PLYMOUTH AND PORTER AVENUES.

BUILT 1873, LATER ENLARGED, TORN DOWN FOR NEW EDIFICE, 1911.



STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, JERSEY STREET.

OPENED FOR USE, SEPTEMBER, 1871. ENLARGED 1875, 1887. CONSTRUCTION BEGUN OF NEW BUILDINGS TO REPLACE IT ON SAME SITE, 1912.



ELMSTONE: RESIDENCE OF MRS. GEORGE H. LEWIS, NO. 656 SEVENTH STREET.

BUILT ABOUT 1840 BY E. D. EFNER. MUCH ENLARGED AND CHANGED BY THE LATE GEORGE H. LEWIS. THE PICTURE SHOWS THE FRONT AVENUE SIDE.



THE EDWARD S. WARREN HOMESTEAD, PORTER AVENUE AND NIAGARA STREET.
 BUILT 1849 BY WM. W. HOWELL. BOUGHT 1855 BY E. S. WARREN AND OCCUPIED BY HIS FAMILY TO THE PRESENT TIME. THE WISTERIA,
 ON THE GARDEN SIDE OF THE HOUSE, WAS PLANTED BY MRS. WARREN OVER FIFTY YEARS AGO.



THE A. PORTER THOMPSON RESIDENCE, PORTER AVENUE.

BUILT 1835 BY HIRAM PRATT; SOLD TO BELA D. COE, BUT SINCE 1855 THE HOME OF A. PORTER THOMPSON AND FAMILY.



THE THOMPSON HOMESTEAD, GARDEN SIDE. FROM AN EARLY PHOTOGRAPH.



THE CORNELL LEAD WORKS, NORTHEAST CORNER DELAWARE AVENUE AND VIRGINIA STREET.

BUILT 1865, REMOVED 1889. THE SITE NOW CLOSELY BUILT WITH HANDSOME RESIDENCES.

between Maryland and Hudson streets, the lot having been donated for church purposes by Mr. William Day. This church was built in 1850. In 1859 a union took place and the building was moved from Prospect avenue to Porter avenue and located just west of Plymouth avenue. In 1868 a more suitable lot was found at the corner of Plymouth avenue and Jersey street, where the fire engine house now stands. This lot was purchased and a frame church erected, in 1868. This building burned in 1873 and the same year the present site, bounded by Plymouth avenue, Porter avenue and Jersey street, was bought. The church which we picture was begun in 1873, later much enlarged and modernized. Such was the growth of the society that a new building was required, and in 1911 the brick church was taken down, its site now being covered by a handsome new edifice.

The vicinity of Niagara street, from Ferry to Auburn, was built up with comfortable houses soon after the War of 1812. A few of them are pictured. Most of them are gone, while most, perhaps all that remain, have undergone more or less of alteration. The house (p. 262) originally built by Capt. James Rough on the foundations of Gen. Porter's house which was destroyed in 1813, was for some years a tavern. When the Rev. John E. Robie lived there it had attractive grounds, and was a social center of note, Elder Robie being for a long period editor of the *Christian Advocate*, and active in the work of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was for some three years chaplain of the 21st New York Infantry. In its latter days the house had various tenants, stood for a time empty, and was torn down in 1912 for an extension of the Sterling Engine Works.

The Stickney house (p. 268) was built in 1819 or '20 by two brothers-in-law, by name Harty and Harvey, but it was



THE REFECTORY AT THE FRONT, NIAGARA HOTEL AT THE RIGHT.
REPLACED BY A STONE BANDSTAND, 1898.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

only known to a later generation as the Stickney house, Orrin Stickney occupying it for many years, from 1850 or earlier. The Walter Norton house was about as old. The Mason houses (p. 272), Niagara below Breckenridge, were owned by the man for whom Mason street is named—that little thoroughfare lying in the field of the Battle of Black Rock. Daniel Hibbard, Black Rock's first postmaster, kept his office in the right-hand end of the house at the right of the picture. Much might be written of many of these old houses, did space permit, especially of the better ones, homes of well-to-do, prominent families, such as the Hull Thompson house at Niagara and Ferry, taken down a few years ago. The old homestead pictured on page 266 had many associations with the Sill and Hawley families, prominent through successive generations in the history of Black Rock and Buffalo.



HOUSE OF JAMES MILLER, BUILT 1822.

SOUTHWEST CORNER, MAIN AND MOHAWK STREETS. ABANDONED AS A RESIDENCE,
PRIOR TO THE ERECTION OF THE MILLER BLOCK, 1867, BUT NOT
WHOLLY TORN DOWN UNTIL 1906.

VANISHED MAIN STREET

Nothing would be of greater interest, in these Glimpses of Yesterday in Buffalo, than the story of old homes—of the homes which were centers of force for the upbuilding of the community. But even were data at command, space would be lacking. All that can be offered are a few pictures, a few notes.

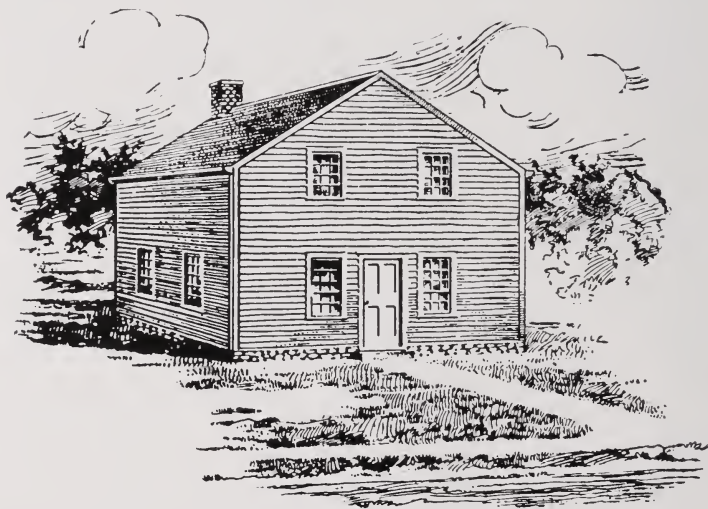
Of most of the interesting old houses, no pictures exist. Sentiment is probably not lacking, but often, even today, it does not take the form of preserving pictures of the old homestead. If it had done so, half a century ago, how we would value the record of the vanished Buffalo!

Seneca and Swan and Court and Eagle and other streets in the older part of the city, have in their day been the best residence streets. As they passed to business uses, years ago, so Franklin street below Chippewa, and Main above Chippewa, are now passing. A few scattered souvenirs are here brought together.

Whoever lives in a city like Buffalo, and gives any heed to the changing countenance of the town, must often be impressed with the declining fortunes of old houses. The home of the well-to-do resident, built in the 30's or 40's, was then the pride of a somewhat primitive neighborhood. Well and honestly put up, it bespoke the dignity of labor, the taste and refinement of its owner. Within its walls, for a generation or more, dwelt a worthy household. It was surrounded, at first, by an ample garden, where fruits

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

flourished and happy children played. Then set in the inevitable succession of change. The father and mother go to their rest; the children scatter. The growing town encroaches; the garden is despoiled, cut up in lots, smart new structures crowd each other. Perhaps the older residence lingers on, through a second generation of alien occupancy. It is leased to most excellent people, who take as lodgers and boarders a few persons of high respectability. With its good old furniture and careful service, it is renowned in the town; it begins to be advertised, but always as "select," and charges are in keeping. Presently, something elsewhere, a shade newer and smarter, takes precedence. The erstwhile home, scene of all the domestic blisses and sorrows, begins to be known as the "old" so-and-so house; and as a place of lodgment and food, it steadily cheapens; the neighborhood declines into untidi-



THE ST. JOHN HOUSE, NOW 460-470 MAIN STREET.
ONLY DWELLING IN BUFFALO NOT BURNED IN THE WAR OF 1812.

ness, with a hint in its atmosphere of boiled cabbage. Presently it seeks the patronage of the impecunious, who do not object to bare hallways and rickety stairs and dubious odors. Last stage of all, it stands a while empty, locked, with cobwebbed windows and placards on the walls, till the march of improvement comes down the street and the old home disappears in a few loads of brick and plaster, and there arises on its site a new Pride of the Neighborhood.

So we change through the decades. Now and then, estates that can afford it, tear down the old homestead as soon as it ceases to be the family home, saving it from ignoble decline; perhaps, too, with a thrifty thought for lessened taxes. But 'tis an admirable course to take and bespeaks proper pride. The pity of it is that it so soon robs our thoroughfares of fine old structures which in a way



THE EBENEZER DAY HOUSE.

SITE NOW NOS. 618-620 MAIN STREET.



THE GOODRICH HOUSE, MAIN AND HIGH STREETS AS IT APPEARED IN THE 70's.
 BEGUN BY JOSEPH ELLICOTT, 1823; COMPLETED BY COL. GUY H. GOODRICH, 1831; FOR SEVERAL YEARS KNOWN AS WASHINGTON PARK.

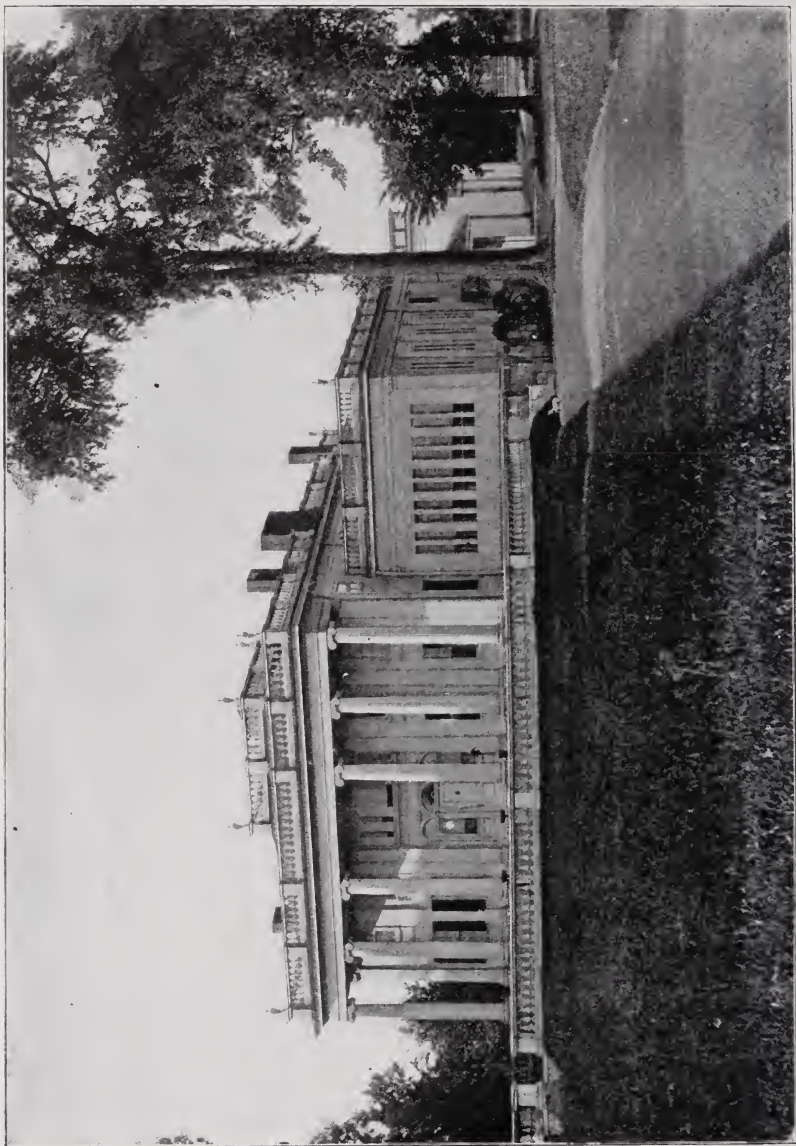
have become endeared, even to the casual passer-by, who may never have had the privilege of entering their portals.

Still another transformation, constantly going on, is the remodeling of old houses to adapt them to business uses. A "store front" is put on, doorways are changed, signs and plate glass complete the disguise, and baked goods, or cigars, or mixed paints are sold in the rooms where, perchance, family prayers were wont to be said, where children played and women sewed, where all the family experiences of life and death hallowed the place. Often it would seem as if the honest old walls must protest.

One building still standing in Buffalo is directly associated with the founder of the city, but most published statements about it erroneously state that Joseph Ellicott built it for his own use.

On the east side of Main street, just above present High street, in 1823, Mr. Ellicott began the erection of a handsome house, not for himself, for he had no idea of leaving his Batavia home, but with the intention of giving it on its completion, to his niece, Mrs. Sarah (Evans) Lyon, wife of Ashael Lyon of Lewiston, N. Y. Mrs. Lyon was born in 1789 and was a daughter of Joseph and Ann (Ellicott) Evans, and a sister of Mrs. William Peacock, of Mayville, N. Y.

Joseph Ellicott never completed the house. The work was delayed by his increasing ill health and at his death, in 1826, the building was still unfinished. It was sold shortly after Mr. Ellicott's death to Col. Guy H. Goodrich, who completed it in 1831 and lived there for many years. The house originally stood in large grounds covering an entire block of land and facing on Main street; but in the course of



THE GOODRICH HOUSE AFTER ITS REMOVAL TO AMHERST STREET.

AS THE RESIDENCE OF MR. JOHN C. GLENNY, KNOWN AS AMHERST HOUSE, NOW, AGAIN ENLARGED, THE RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM B. HOYT,

time, these grounds were cut up into lots and sold, until the old mansion was hemmed in by modern buildings except on the High-street side. About 1891, the land on which it then stood was bought by the Medical Department of the University of Buffalo, and the house itself was sold to John C. Glenny, who had it moved in sections to Amherst street where, restored, enlarged and re-named "Amherst House," it became his home until his death. It was bought about 1910 by Mr. William B. Hoyt, who has again enlarged it. It is probably the only building now standing in Buffalo, with the design and construction of which Joseph Ellicott was personally connected.

Nothing in recent years has changed Buffalo more than the destruction of the fine old homes that for three-quarters of a century made Main street a very pleasant residence district. Many good residences still remain, but the old-time character is rapidly passing, and some blocks, above Chippewa, are wholly rebuilt for business. Pictures of a number of these early houses are here brought together, but no detailed history of them can be entered into. In some cases, the story will be told in the succeeding volume of this series. Many of them have given way to business structures devoted to the automobile trade. One conspicuous structure, the Burrelle building at Main and Goodrich streets, is the successor of the old Sutton house, known to a later generation as the residence of Harry Slade and family.

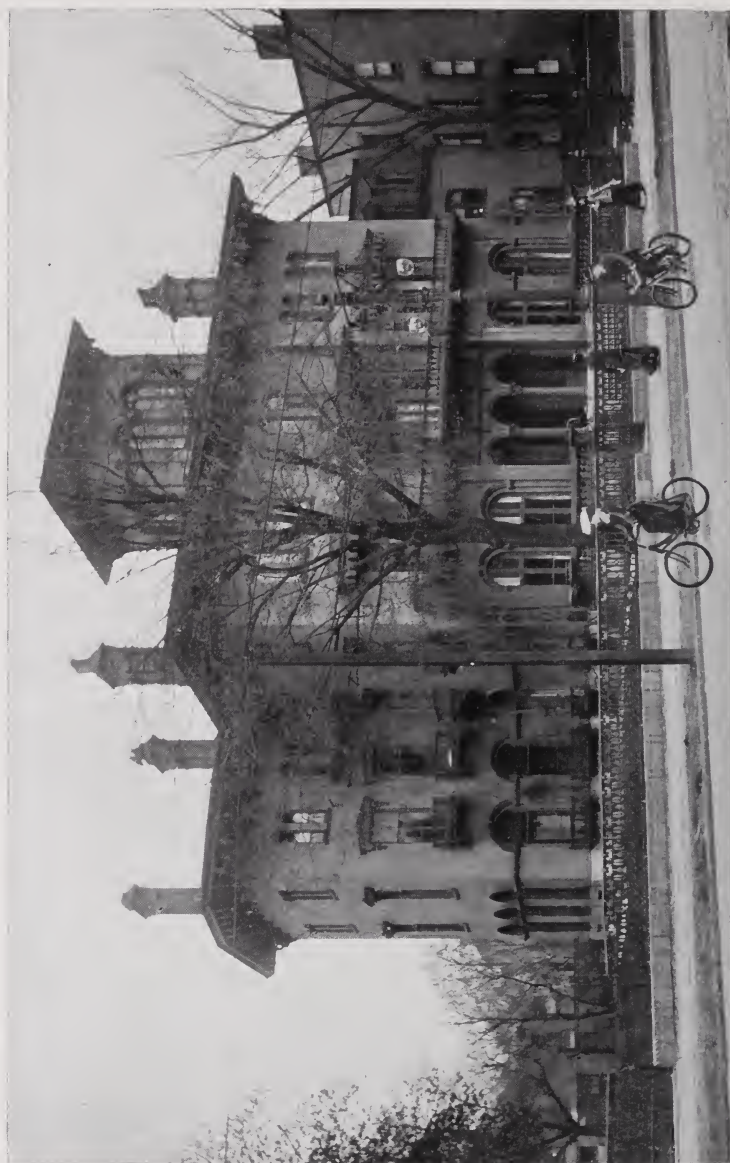
The stores No. 460-470 Main street now cover the site where stood the St. John house, the only dwelling in Buffalo not destroyed in the burning of the town in 1813. The view of this house on page 308 is from a drawing and other data preserved by Mrs. St. John's descendants; and as its story is told at length in volume IX of these Publications, it need not be repeated here.



THE KIP-HOLLAND HOUSE, No. 640 MAIN STREET, ABOVE CHIPPEWA, IN ITS LAST DAYS.



THE DESHLER-WOODWARD-OLD HOUSE, No. 649 MAIN STREET.
LEASED BY THE BUFFALO REPUBLICAN LEAGUE, 1891, AND CALLED THE WHITE HOUSE.



THE MERRILL B. SHERWOOD HOUSE, WEST SIDE OF MAIN, ABOVE CHIPWEA STREET.
BUILT ABOUT 1854, TORN DOWN 1902.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

The Ebenezer Day house, built in the '20's, was torn down in the '80's. Its site is now covered by the Manhattan building.

A handsome residence, on the west side of Main street, above Chippewa, known for nearly half a century as the "Sherwood house," was erected by Merrill B. Sherwood, probably in the early 50's; certainly prior to 1855. When built, it was the showiest, perhaps the costliest, residence in Buffalo. Mr. Sherwood was president of the so-called Farmers' Joint Stock Company. It is recorded that many farmers were lured by the name to place their savings in the keeping of the institution. About the time the residence of Mr. Sherwood was completed, he closed the doors of his bank and fled to Canada. An old story is that his life was threatened and that certain of his supposed victims stated they would kill him if they ever met him. This, however, is ancient gossip and not history. In its later years, the Sherwood house passed through the usual stages of such structures in the way of improvement. For a time, it was a high-class boarding-house; for a period it was used as a furniture store; and it received various alterations, so that the picture does not show it as originally built. In 1892 it was torn down for business buildings now on its site.

Ebenezer Walden came to Buffalo in 1808, a graduate of Williams College, and the first lawyer to settle here. In that year the entire Bar of old Niagara County consisted of eight young men: Jonas Harrison, John Root, Heman B. Potter, Alvin Sharpe, Bates Cook, Philo Andrews and Ebenezer Walden. The last-named was sent to the Legislature in 1812, was the first Judge of Erie County, and was Mayor of Buffalo in 1838. In 1813 he lived at the north-east corner of Main and Eagle streets. The enemy burned his house, but after the war he rebuilt, of brick, and that



THE JAMES P. WHITE RESIDENCE, NO. 674 MAIN STREET.



THE WILLIAM H. GLENNY RESIDENCE.
NO. 692 MAIN STREET.



THE MARSHALL HOMESTEAD, NO. 700 MAIN STREET.

BUILT 1841 BY HON. SETH E. SILL. OWNED AND ENLARGED BY WILLIAM FISKE, 1851-61. HOME OF JAMES BRALEY, 1861-'72; OF O. H. MARSHALL AND FAMILY, 1872-1909. REPLACED BY A BUSINESS BLOCK, 1910.



THE TOWNSEND (LATER, WILSON) HOMESTEAD, SOUTHEAST CORNER OF MAIN AND TUPPER STREETS,
NO. 705 MAIN STREET. BUILT 1831-2, TORN DOWN 1904. PRESENT SITE OF THE WILSON BUILDING.



RESIDENCE OF ANDREW J. RICH, NORTHEAST CORNER MAIN AND TUPPER STREETS
NO. 727 MAIN STREET. BUILT 1850, TORN DOWN 1900. SITE OF THE PRESENT RICH BUILDING.



OLD MAIN STREET HOMESTEADS, ABOVE TUPPER, TORN DOWN 1905-6.

AT LEFT, NO. 724, BUILT PRIOR TO 1842, HOME OF DANFORD MARBLE, CHARLES ROSSEEL, NO. 730, RIGHT OF CENTER, BUILT 1843, HOME OF AMBROSE POTTER YAW, GEORGE RUSSELL POTTER. AT EXTREME RIGHT, NO. 736, PASCAL P. PRATT HOUSE, 1854-1906.



THE PASCAL P. PRATT RESIDENCE, NO. 736 MAIN STREET.
BUILT, 1854; TORN DOWN, 1906.



THE RUPP HOUSE, LATER KNOWN AS WRIGHT'S, NO. 754 MAIN STREET.
REPLACED BY A BUSINESS STRUCTURE.



HOUSE OF JUDGE EBENEZER WALDEN; SITE NOW COVERED BY THE TECK THEATER.
TORN DOWN FOR ERECTION OF THE FIRST MUSIC HALL, 1882.



HOUSE AT SOUTHEAST CORNER MAIN AND GOODELL STREETS.

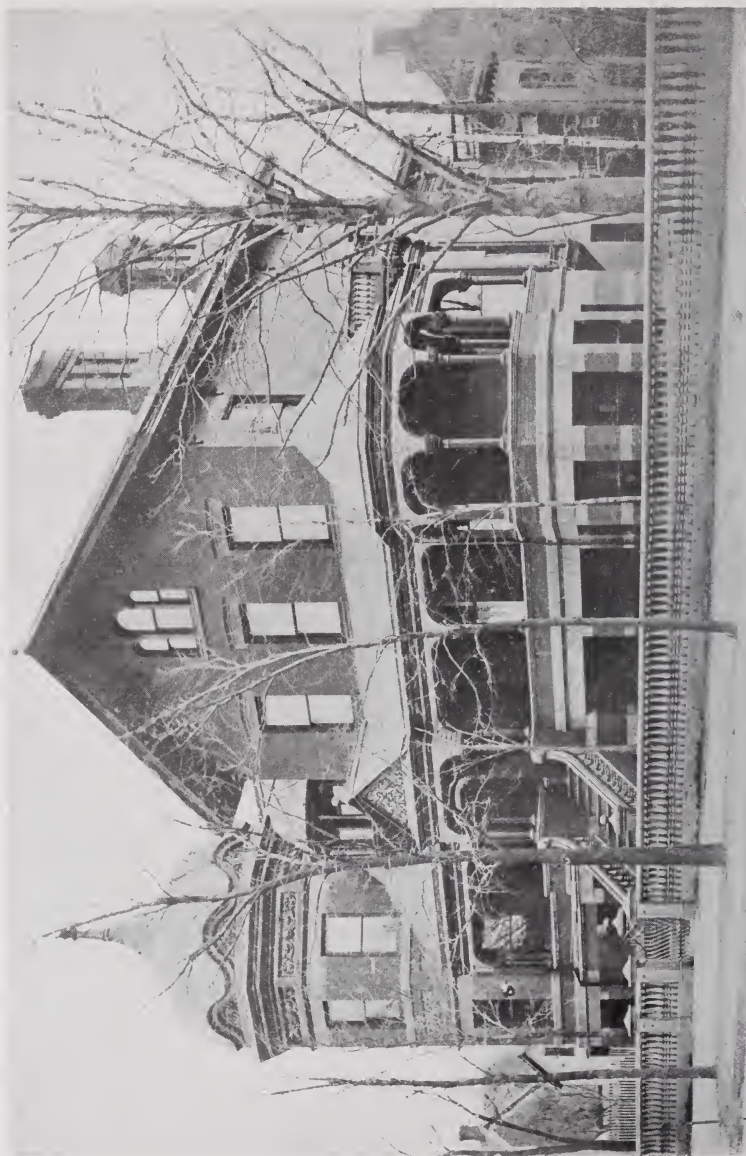
BUILT IN THE '30's BY WILLIAM HOLLISTER; FOR MANY YEARS THE HOME OF HON. E. G. SPAULDING. NOW THE SITE OF THE SIDEWAY AND SPAULDING BLOCKS.



DRAWING-ROOM, E. G. SPAULDING RESIDENCE; DINING-ROOM BEYOND.



SITTING-ROOM, RESIDENCE OF IION. E. G. SPAULDING, SHOWING HIS FAVORITE CHAIR.



RESIDENCE OF EDWARD BENNETT, MAIN AND CARLTON STREETS.

AS IT WAS IN RECENT YEARS. IN EARLIER YEARS, HOME OF MAJ. GEN. NELSON RANDALL. TORN DOWN, 1912.



HOUSE OF W. A. SUTTON, NORTHEAST CORNER MAIN AND GOODRICH STREETS.

LATER, RESIDENCE OF WM. H. SLADE. SITE NOW COVERED BY THE BURELL BUILDING.



HOMESTEAD OF HON. JAMES SHELDON, 1094 MAIN STREET.

BOUGHT BY JUDGE SHELDON, 1864; TORN DOWN, 1907. PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AFTER A GREAT STORM, FEBRUARY, 1883.



RESIDENCE OF THOMAS CLARK, NO. 1227 MAIN STREET.

BUILT ABOUT 1856. FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN IN 1866. SITE NOW COVERED BY COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS.



THE HAZARD-DUNBAR HOUSE, NO. 1247 MAIN STREET.

RESIDENCE OF EDWARD HAZARD, AS EARLY AS THE '50'S. IN RECENT YEARS, HOME OF CHAS. F. DUNBAR. TCN DOWN 1912, FOR BUSINESS STRUCTURES.



RESIDENCE OF RICHARD AND J. H. BULLYMORE, NO. 1261 MAIN STREET.
REPLACED BY COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 1912.



RESIDENCE OF CHAS. SCHLEGEL; LATER OF HENRY SMITH, NO. 1284 MAIN ST., CORNER OF BRYANT.
TORN DOWN 1912, FOR BUSINESS BUILDINGS. ON THIS CORNER STOOD, 'TIL JANUARY, 1913, A LARGE SASSAFRAS TREE, A SURVIVOR OF
THE EARLY DAYS.

is the house shown in the picture on page 167. It was, apparently, the third brick building in the reconstructed town. In 1823 Bela D. Coe bought it, and lived in it until about 1839, when W. A. Moseley took possession. During the '40's he sold to the McArthurs, who developed the place into McArthur's Garden, a resort well remembered by older residents, but of which the Historical Society has no picture. Judge Walden built a fine mansion with large columns, where the Teck Theater now stands, and his orchard embraced the present site of the Grosvenor Library. Gen. Albert J. Myers (the "Old Probabilities" of the U. S. Signal Service), and his wife, who was a daughter of Judge Walden, lived in the old home for a time. Gen. Myers died in Buffalo in 1880, and the house was torn down a few years later, when the first Music Hall was built on its site.

The question is sometimes asked, What was the first brick house in Buffalo? The late Barton Atkins, who was very well informed on early Buffalo history, especially of the upper Main street vicinity, is authority for the statement that in 1806 William Hodge built a brick house on the lot now No. 1358 Main street. "The bricks for the building were manufactured by Mr. Hodge on the lot now occupied by the Bapst building, corner of Main street and Glenwood avenue." In 1811 William Hodge built a brick hotel, long known as "the brick tavern on the hill," at what is now the corner of Main and Utica streets. It was burned when the neighboring village of Buffalo was destroyed, in 1813. The first brick structure in the old village of Buffalo was Juba Storr's store, northeast corner of Washington and Exchange streets, built 1810. (See map, p. 58.)

Erastus Granger, who was one of the fourteen land-owners in Buffalo in 1804, resided from about 1806 till his death, Jan. 21, 1826, in the house shown on p. 339, the prop-



JUDGE ERASTUS GRANGER HOMESTEAD, SAID TO DATE FROM 1792.

SITE NOW INCLUDED IN FOREST LAWN CEMETERY, NEAR MAIN STREET ENTRANCE. THE MAIN PART OF THE HOUSE WAS BUILT 1804-06; DEMOLISHED 1860. THE LAST OF THE OLD POPLARS WERE CUT DOWN IN 1912.

erty now included in Forest Lawn. The original of this picture was drawn in 1891 by the late John R. Chapin, from data supplied by the Granger family. The statement that the house was built in 1792 is on the authority of James N. Granger, who so states in his "Launcelot Granger . . . a genealogical History," published in 1893. Accepting this, we must note that up to the time of its destruction, in 1860, it was by several years the oldest house in what is now Buffalo. Since its destruction, the oldest house in Erie County is generally said to be the Evans house at Williamsville; but the oldest part of that—the low wing—dates only from 1798.

From the time of Judge Granger's occupancy until his death, the Granger house was often the scene of councils and other gatherings of the Indians. It escaped destruction in the burning of Buffalo. Erastus Granger was the first postmaster of Buffalo (commissioned Sept. 3, 1804), was Surveyor of the Port, afterwards Collector of the Port of Buffaloe Creek, 1803 to 1812. The duties of these three offices he performed by deputy. In 1807 he was appointed one of the judges for Genesee Co., which included what is now Erie Co., and in June, 1808, he presided at the first term of court ever held in Buffalo. His most important service was as U. S. Indian Agent, 1804 to 1818. "He was the last full agent appointed to the Six Nations," writes James N. Granger, "while Sir William Johnson was the first."

Trustworthy data regarding the Granger house are scant. If built, as claimed, six years before Erastus Granger came to Buffalo, it was built before the Holland Land Co. made its surveys. Nothing is known of it, by the present compiler, before Judge Granger's time. He held title to nearly 800 acres, on which were numerous houses. Among his guests at the homestead were Red Jacket, Cornplanter and



WILLOW LAWN, THE CHAPIN-JEWETT HOMESTEAD, NOW 2364 MAIN STREET.

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN THE DAY AFTER THE FALL OF THE GREAT WILLOW IN 1901.

Farmer's Brother—the latter now buried not far from the spot where the old house stood. It is said to have been largely through Farmer's Brother's influence that the house was spared by the British in the general burning. In the sketch of Judge Granger, in the genealogical work above referred to, the following incident is related:

"His house, removed some three miles from the village, was guarded by his faithful Indians. . . . On the evening of 10 July, 1813, Judge Granger received word from his faithful scouts that the British had crossed the river and were preparing to attack Buffalo. He also found that his home was specially marked for destruction. He sent messengers to the old chief Farmer's Brother, who was in his hut at the Indian village across the Buffalo Creek, summoning him and such Indians as could be mustered to report to the agent's house. The chief and his followers arrived at 11 o'clock, and the night was spent in preparing for the coming fray. Bullets were molded by the great fire in the kitchen, messengers hurried into the neighboring village for arms and ammunition, and the Indians were banqueted on unlimited salt pork prepared by Mrs. Granger's own hands. As the sun came up in the morning the Judge ordered his famous sorrel mare brought out and saddled, and led his red warriors, headed by their chief, then 90 years old, through the woods by what was known as the Guide Board Road (now North street) to the little town of Black Rock. Just beyond the site of the Niagara Hotel in that city, he found the white troops hastily assembling under Gen. Porter, who quickly formed his line with the Indians under Judge Granger on the right, the regulars in the center, and the white volunteers on the left. At once the Indians prepared for battle. This was a simple operation, and consisted in divesting themselves of all clothing save



A UNIQUE VIEW OF BUFFALO; REPRODUCTION OF A PENCIL SKETCH OF 1837.

THE ORIGINAL (12 BY 18 IN.) GIVEN TO THE BUFFALO HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN THE '60'S BY HON. ORLANDO ALLEN.

their breech-cloths and hanging about their necks the *matur-nip*, a long cord with which they bound their prisoners. Gen. Porter decided to assume the offensive, and at the command the Indians sprang forward with a yell which startled both foe and friend alike. The volunteers on the left commenced to press forward also, but the American center, through some misunderstanding, remained stationary. In a few minutes the two wings had the British force in full and disordered retreat toward their boats on the shore, their commander mortally wounded and many slain. The Indians followed the retreating enemy, even rushing into the water and pulling them from their boats into the stream. The victory was complete. Buffalo was saved, and saved mainly by the Indians. In the succeeding December Buffalo was burned, and although nearly every house was destroyed the British failed to get within a mile of Flint Hill, as Judge Granger's place was called."

For 52 years after the house disappeared, some of the Judge's old Lombardy poplars remained to mark the site. The last of them were cut down in the summer of 1912.

The story of Willow Lawn goes back to 1807, when Daniel Chapin came to Buffalo from East Bloomfield and settled on a farm which is now included in Parkside and Delaware Park. He lived in a log house in the rear of the present house, which was built, about 1820, by his son, Col. William W. Chapin. For many years it was the home of Mr. Elam R. Jewett, who published the *Journal* in 1838, merging it in 1839 with the *Commercial Advertiser*. During Mr. Jewett's occupancy, the ample grounds were beautifully kept. A great willow, which gave name to the place, and stood not far from the front entrance, went down in a gale of 1901. A street now called Willow Lawn, cuts through lands that were Mr. Jewett's garden. The old house still stands.



RESIDENCE OF SAMUEL F. PRATT, NO. 137 SWAN STREET.

AS IT WAS AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH IN 1872. THE REGION IS NOW ALMOST WHOLLY GIVEN OVER TO BUSINESS.

GLIMPSES OF YESTERDAY

In the older part of the city, the establishment of fire limits hastened the disappearance of wooden houses. In 1833 it was forbidden to erect frame buildings south of Mohawk, between the east side of Pearl and the west side of Washington streets. From time to time the fire limits were extended. Many of the early frame houses, however, of honest and substantial construction, continued as comfortable homes down to comparatively recent years. An excellent example of them was the Harry Slade house, on Washington street at Mohawk. More primitive was the Ebenezer Day house, on Main above Chippewa; and of varying styles were the early homes of Orlando Allen on Swan street, Orsamus H. Marshall at Church and Pearl, Smith H. Salisbury on West Genesee street, and George Coit, at Swan and Pearl. This last, a substantial and roomy house, had undergone enlargement before its removal to Virginia street, where it may still be seen. One of the comfortable old frame houses, just gone, was known as the Kinne house, at Pearl and Huron; and the finest of them all still stands in quiet dignity, the Wilkeson homestead on Niagara Square.

One of the most interesting of the early frame houses, stood until November, 1860, on the east side of Pearl street below ^{Swan} Seneca. It was torn down when Mr. C. J. Hamlin erected the large store, extending through from Main to Pearl, the front of which is shown on page 84. The old



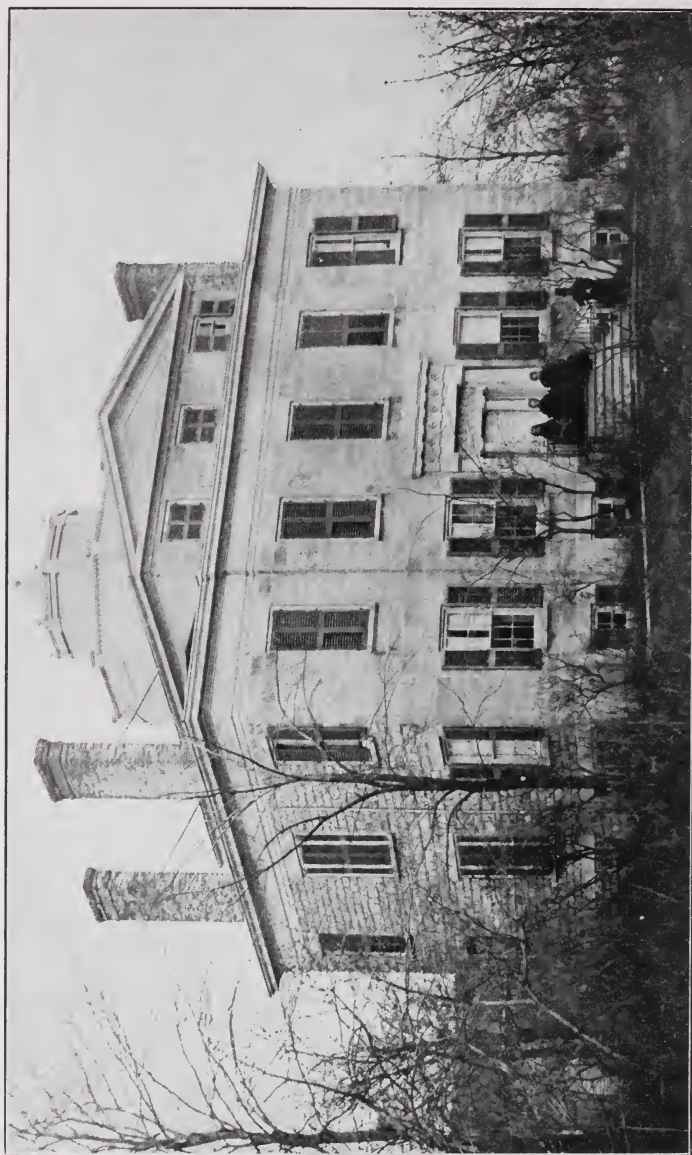
RESIDENCE OF HON. ORLANDO ALLEN, NO. 99 E. SWAN STREET.

HOUSE BUILT 1829, TAKEN DOWN 1904.

house in question was described in the *Courier* (Nov. 2, 1860), as follows:

"On this lot, at its Pearl street end, stood, till within a few days, a one and a half story frame house, in the removal of which one of the oldest houses in Buffalo is numbered with the things that were. It was built in the year 1814 by Reuben B. Heacock, as a residence for the Grosvenor family. At that date only a few buildings, beside it, stood to the west of Main. Pearl street then had a much higher grade than now, as may be seen from the earth embankment between Seneca and Swan, on which a few old houses yet stand. Quite a hill rose farther down the street, where it now opens on the Terrace. The postoffice was then kept in a brick house yet standing [1860], on the opposite side of the street from the building to which we have particular reference.

"The first occupant of this Grosvenor house was Martin Daley, who built, for a family residence, what is now Hotel d'Europe, and whose children yet live here. After him, Mr. Heacock himself moved in with his family. Then came in as tenant, Deacon Amos Callender, who kept a select school in its upper rooms, where several that are living and not a few that are dead, were inducted into the mysteries of 'the three R's.' Mrs. Grosvenor, mother of S. B. Grosvenor, and afterwards Mrs. Kibbe, was the next occupant of the old house. Jasper Corning of New York, subsequently married into the family, and first kept house in the venerable edifice. Mr. Corning, a few years ago, had a daguerreotype of the place taken as an interesting memento of old times. Mr. West, stepfather of Mrs. Grosvenor, lived here afterwards till about the year 1830, when this house, still remaining in the Grosvenor family, was from time to time tenanted by various parties less known in Buffalo



HOMESTEAD OF HON. PHILANDER BENNETT. BUILT 1831, DEMOLISHED 1888.

A PORTION OF THE ORIGINAL 15 ACRES NOW CONSTITUTES BENNETT PARK. MR. BENNETT STANDS AT FOOT OF THE STEPS.

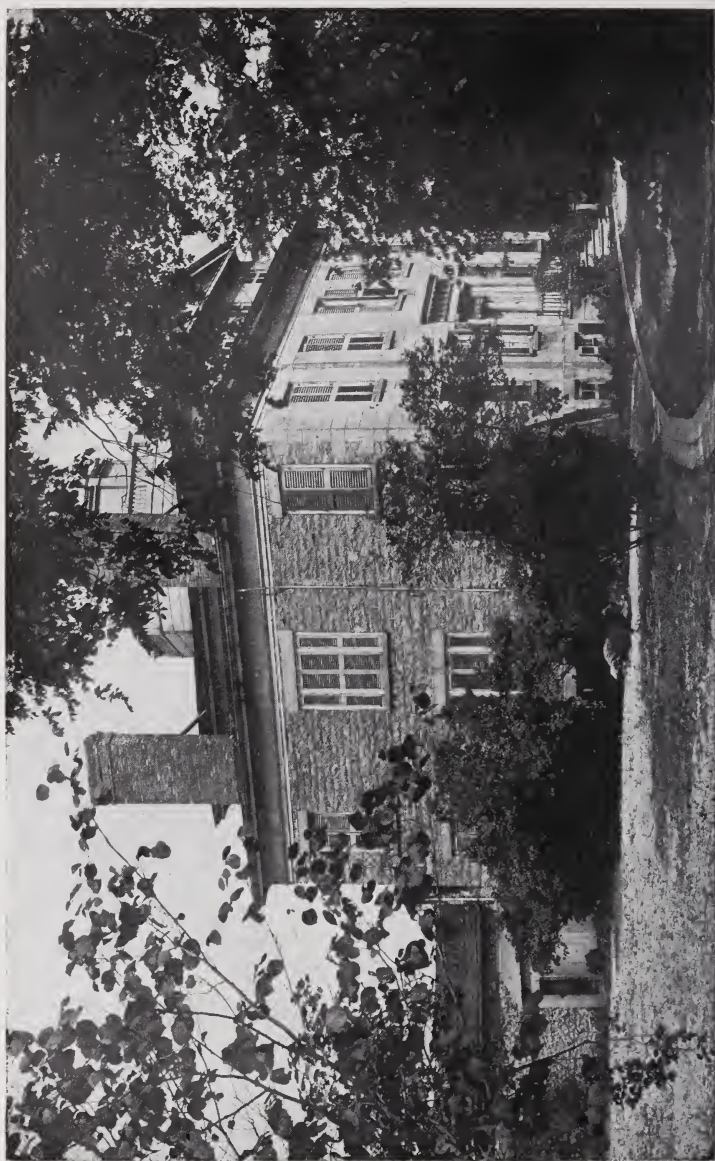
history. The property was finally transferred to C. J. Hamlin."

Two or three distinct types of brick dwelling have characterized different periods in Buffalo's building. Most imposing, and one of the earliest, was the high, three-story, substantial and costly house, or group of houses, of the type of the Evans house pictured on page 356. The Darrow block was of this sort, and so were several others, a few of which still remain. A good example may be seen at the northeast corner, Swan and Oak streets.

A less distinctive but far more popular type was such as the Sage house on Court street, the Kimberley house on Washington, and dozens of others in downtown streets. Many of these still stand with an added story or a store front. It was a type planned for compact city building; but now that the need for close building is greater than formerly, houses of this type are rarely put up.

A most interesting early house was that of James Miller, at the southwest corner of Main and Mohawk streets. Built in 1822, it stood until recent years. Its story will be told at length in the next volume of this series.

It is well to bear in mind that certain of the old houses here pictured were in, and of, the old village of Buffalo. The original plat did not extend north of Chippewa street, nor east of present Ellicott street. Some of the interesting old houses pictured, as for instance the Philander Bennett house, though of early date, were outside the old city boundary. The Bennett house, built in 1831, and sold to the city of Buffalo in 1886, stood in a tract of 15 acres, of which Bennett Park is the modern survival. The Bennett place was one of the most notable of the earlier Buffalo. Philander Bennett, born in Catskill, N. Y., April 29, 1795, graduated from Hamilton College in 1816, married in 1817 and



THE PHILANDER BENNETT HOUSE: A VIEW FROM THE GROUNDS.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

in that year brought his bride to Buffalo. In 1822 he was admitted to practice as an attorney. He was the first judge of Erie Co. Court of Common Pleas, 1829 to 1837; was alderman in 1832, '33, '40 and '41; president of the old City Bank in 1836, and in 1840 was made vice-president of the Buffalo & Attica Railroad Co. He died in 1863, leaving a widow (who resided in the old homestead until her death in 1885), and two children: a son, Edward Bennett, and a daughter, Mary H. Germain. One of the views here given of the old home shows Mr. Edward Bennett, and seated on the steps are Mrs. Philander Bennett, in the center, with a sister, Mrs. William T. Miller, at the right, and another sister, Mrs. Hannah Tomlinson, at the left.

In 1891 the old brick residence at the northeast corner of South Division and Ellicott streets was pulled down for the erection of a six-story business block on the site of that house and the Bassett house next east. The corner house was built for a dwelling in 1845 by H. S. Beecher, and it was then in a fashionable residence part of the town. It never changed hands, but was occupied by Mr. Beecher and by his family until torn down. The foundation of the house was of a concrete composed principally of gravel and water lime after a new patent process then recently discovered, instead of being laid with stone; and this foundation was the curious part of the house. The concrete was mixed in the street and shoveled into board cases which were made and fixed of the proper width and depth and in the place in the cellar excavation, where the foundation was to be laid. The concrete required time to harden so as to sustain the weight of the building to be erected. Meanwhile it was visited by everybody in the city and many people from the towns and country around, who wished to see this curious foundation and who speculated on how long it would take



THE BEECHER RESIDENCE, NORTHEAST CORNER ELLICOTT AND S. DIVISION STREETS.
BUILT 1845, TAKEN DOWN 1891. PRESENT SITE OF THE BEECHER BLOCK.

for it to crumble to pieces and let the building down. It was foretold that the new-fangled foundation would never stand the pressure of the weight upon it of a large building like that to be erected, and that if it stood long enough for the house to be built it was liable at any time to give way and the building to fall, killing all the people who lived there. But the house was built and the owner and his family moved in, despite the warnings and forebodings of their good neighbors and friends, and there they lived for more than forty-five years; and when they took the house down in 1891 it almost needed dynamite to break down the old cellar's concrete walls.

One of our pictures shows the old Evans houses, as photographed about 1874, shortly before they were torn down. They were three-story brick dwellings (double) on the northeast corner of Washington and North Division streets, built in 1835-36. The northerly house was built and owned by Mrs. Letitia (Ellicott) Evans, (born in 1762) widow of John Evans of Baltimore, Md., and sister of Joseph Ellicott, Agent of the Holland Land Company. The southerly house (on the corner) was built and owned by William Evans, the son of Mrs. Letitia (Ellicott) Evans, and father of the late Charles W. Evans of Buffalo. Mrs. Letitia Evans and her daughter Martha (afterwards Mrs. Samuel Carey), came from Baltimore to Buffalo in 1832, as did also her son William Evans with his family. For a time they all lived in the old Niagara Bank house on Washington street, which stood at what is now North Division street. Later, the banking house was razed when North Division street was cut through. The houses pictured here were first occupied in the spring of 1836.

On the death of Mrs. Letitia Evans in June, 1841, the northerly house was owned and occupied by her daughter



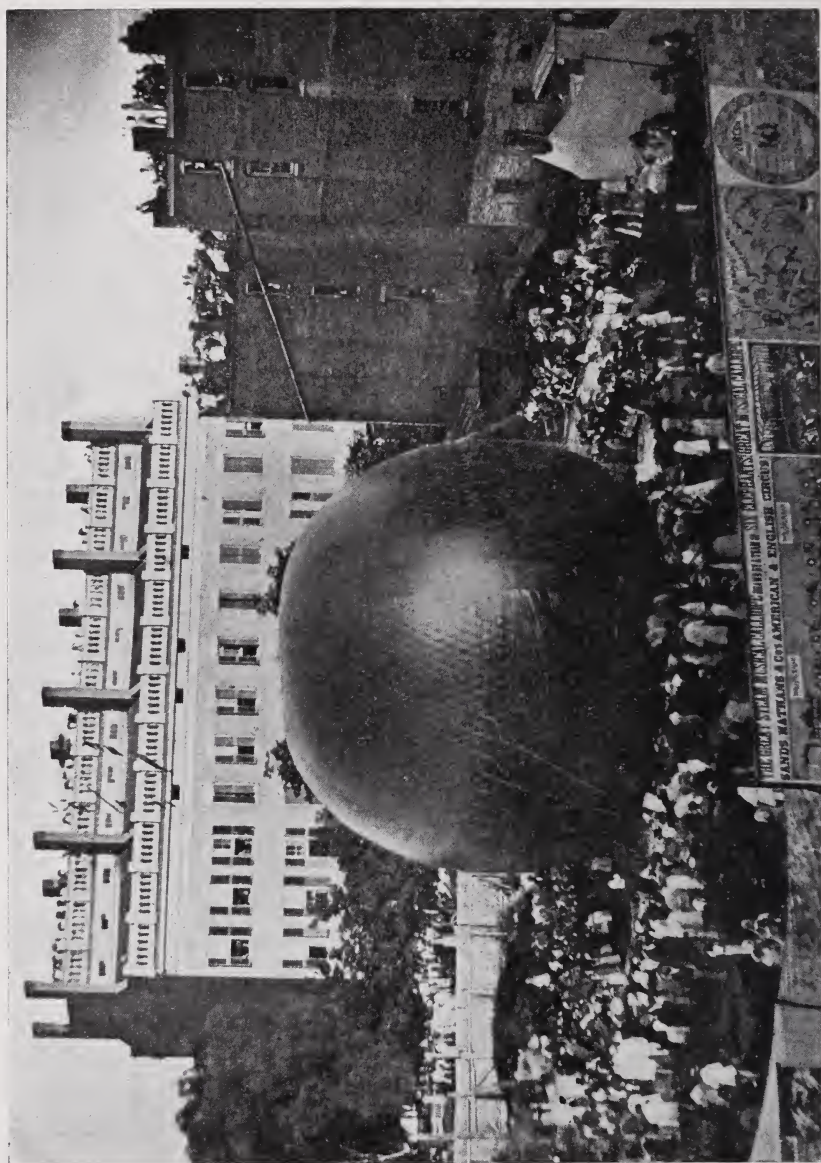
THE EVANS HOUSES, NORTHEAST CORNER WASHINGTON AND NORTH DIVISION STREETS.
FROM A PHOTOGRAPH MADE ABOUT 1874.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

Martha (then Mrs. Samuel Carey of Baltimore) who removed from Baltimore with her husband in 1841. It continued to be their home until her death in April, 1868, when her husband, Samuel Carey, returned to Baltimore, and the house was sold.

William Evans died in his home (the southerly house), in March, 1840, and his widow, Mrs. Margaret (Randall) Evans, continued to occupy it until her death in March, 1872. Her house was the center for all her children and grand-children during her life-time, and most of her children had their homes not far from hers. Her son Charles W. Evans, the last of her children to marry, lived with her there, and for five years after his marriage. He then built a house on the westerly side of Washington street (demolished, 1912), almost opposite his mother's house, and adjoining the home of his brother, James Carey Evans, the latter now the site of the building occupied by King & Eisele. Another son, John R. Evans, owned and occupied the house on the north-east corner of North Division and Ellicott streets (still standing), and still another son, William A., lived near by on East Eagle street.

The old Washington street Evans houses were built together as was so often done at that time, but were entirely distinct and each complete in itself. They were of the same size and design. The rooms were large and high—two parlors with folding doors between, and a wide hallway with long flight of stairs occupying the main part of each first story, while a connecting back-building held the dining rooms and kitchens. The chambers above were also large and high; the wood-work throughout was white enamel, the doors of heavy mahogany with silver knobs. The furniture was of heavy mahogany. The yards at the sides and rear were planted with fruit trees and old-fashioned shrubs



EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

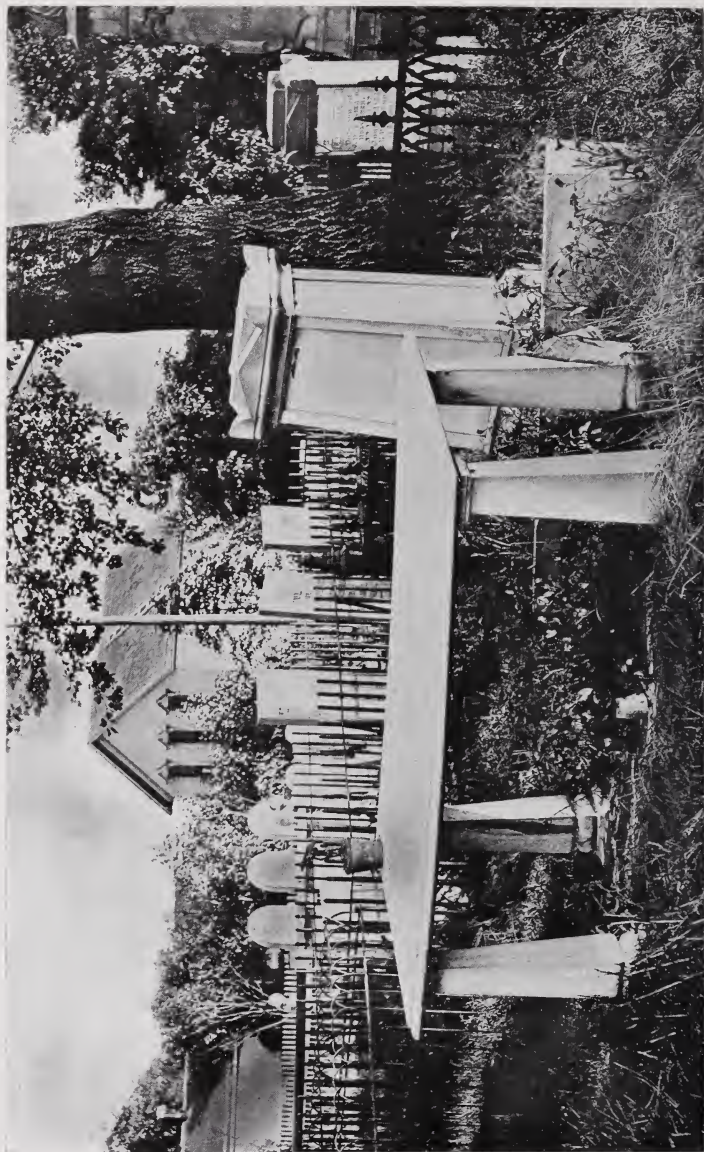
and flowers, hollyhocks, honeysuckle, lilacs, and in each yard was an old-fashioned pump, supplying what was then pure spring water. The southerly lot being ten feet wider than the northerly, left a grassy yard between North Division street and the house. A high fence separated the yard from the street, the depth of the lot, which was 160 feet.

After the death of Mrs. Margaret (Randall) Evans in March, 1872, her house was rented and used for a short time as the first home of the Buffalo Homeopathic Hospital. Later it was sold, and both houses were torn down in 1875 when the Miller & Greiner business block was erected on the site. This building was destroyed by fire on March 15, 1887, but was rebuilt and is now occupied by the Clawson & Wilson Company.

Mention must be made of the Darrow block on Washington street, below Clinton; still standing, but how changed! In the early 40's there was no more aristocratic residence in Buffalo. One of our pictures shows it well.

Among the families conspicuous in the social life of Buffalo, who resided in the Darrow block, was one whose history is unique and of exceptional interest in our local annals.

In the early 40's, one of the houses of this block was the home of Captain William G. Williams and his bride. Captain Williams was an officer in the corps of topographical engineers, United States army. He was stationed at Buffalo for some years, being charged with the superintendence of a Government triangulation survey of Lake Erie, and he also surveyed a route for a ship canal around Niagara Falls.



HISTORIC GRAVES IN THE EAST NORTH STREET CEMETERY.

HERE WERE BURIED CAPT. WM. G. WILLIAMS AND HIS WIFE, AMERICA PINKNEY WILLIAMS, GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER OF MARTHA WASHINGTON. PRESENT SITE OF THE 65TH REGIMENT ARMORY.

His wife was one of three beautiful daughters of Martha Washington Custis, who married Col. Thomas Peter. Mrs. Peter was a daughter of John Parke Custis, who was a son of Martha Washington. Mr. and Mrs. Peter's three girls were patriotically named America, Britannia and Columbia. Britannia, who was the only one of Martha Washington's great-grandchildren born at Mount Vernon, became the wife of Commodore Beverley Kennon, U. S. N., who was killed by the bursting of the gun Stockton. Tudor Place, her historic home, was built by her father and was willed to her by her mother. It was for many years one of the famous old mansions near Washington.

The Custis, Kennon and Peter families present many distinguished and interesting connections, which it would be outside the main purpose of these notes to enter into. It may be stated, however, that George Washington Parke Custis, whose home was known as Arlington, was the brother of Mrs. Thomas Peter. His daughter Mary married General Lee, famous in the war of the Rebellion, consequently Mrs. Lee was own cousin to Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Kennon. Major—then Captain—George Peter, brother of Colonel Thomas Peter, was stationed at Niagara Falls in 1800. General Winfield Scott and General Taylor were both lieutenants under him. Robert Peter, father of George and Thomas, was an original proprietor of lands, where now stands the city of Washington. It is said he owned a strip of land on the Maryland side of the Potomac 20 miles in length, beginning at the city of Washington. Martha Washington Kennon, only child of Mrs. Kennon, married Dr. Armistead Peter, of Georgetown, D. C., own cousin of her mother and a brother of the late James Freeland Peter of this city.

The ivy which so beautifully clothed the walls of St.



THE BENJAMIN H. AUSTIN HOUSE, NORTHEAST CORNER WASHINGTON AND EAGLE STREETS. BUILT ABOUT 1842. A RESIDENCE UNTIL ABOUT 1875. THE ALE BARREL IN THE ROOF INDICATES ITS LATTER-DAY USE. TORN DOWN 1912.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

Paul's pro-cathedral before the fire and restoration, was brought from Tudor Place by the late Dr. Shelton, who received it from Miss Britannia Peter.

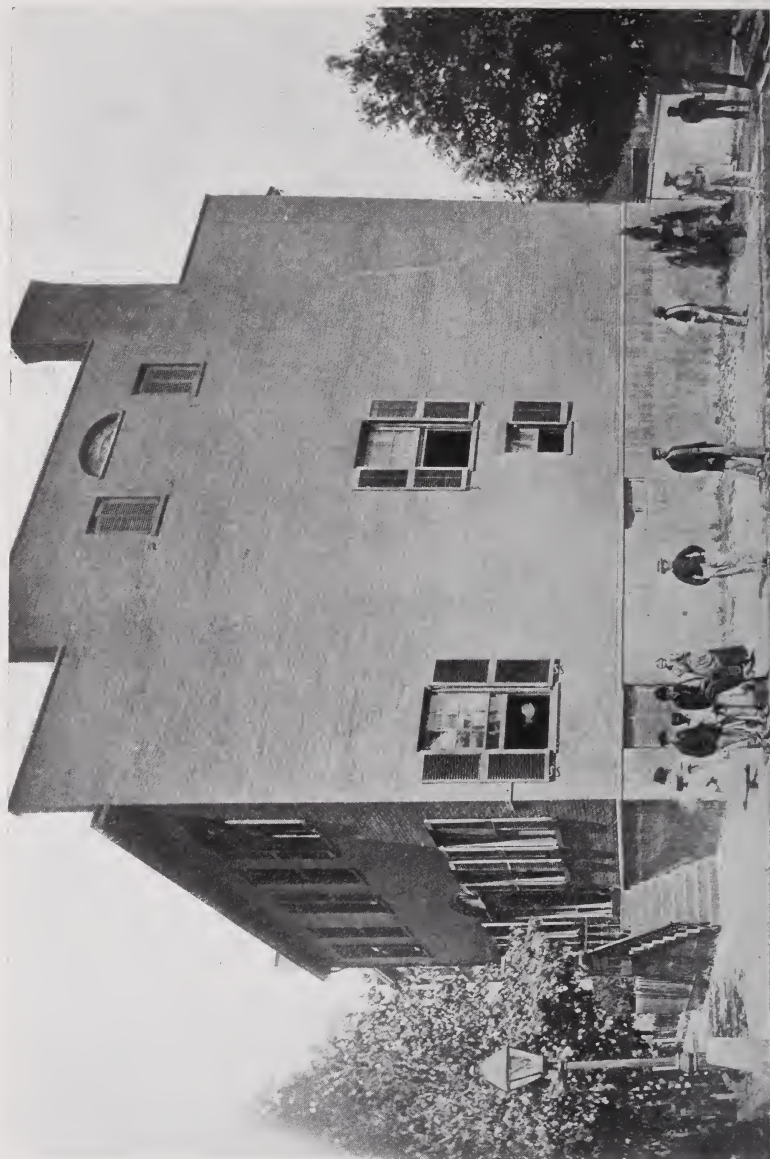
America Peter, who married Captain Williams, came with him to Buffalo and was the mother of Lawrence Williams, afterwards a major in the United States army, who may still be remembered by older citizens of Buffalo as an elegant and accomplished gentleman. His father, Captain Williams, left Buffalo with United States troops at the outbreak of the war with Mexico. He was killed in the battle of Monterey and his body was brought back to Buffalo and buried with military honors in the old East North-street cemetery.

One of our pictures shows his tomb as it formerly was with that of his wife beside it. The slab over his grave bore the following inscription:

"William G. Williams, captain in the corps of topographical engineers, United States Army. Aged 45 years. Conducting a storming party at the taking of Monterey, Mexico, Sept. 21, 1846, he fell mortally wounded and died in the hands of the enemy. His last message to his friends was, 'Tell them I fell in front of the column.' His remains were recovered under direction of a committee of citizens of Buffalo and Black Rock, and buried with military honors, March 9, 1847."

In 1901, when the North-street burial ground was cleared for the erection of the 65th Regiment Armory, the remains of Captain and Mrs. Williams were removed to Forest Lawn and the slab formerly over his grave was lowered into the new grave and covered up.

Our picture of the old burial lot is perhaps the only existing view of this once famous spot, where was buried a great-granddaughter of Martha Washington.



RESIDENCE OF SHELDON THOMPSON, WASHINGTON STREET AND BROADWAY.

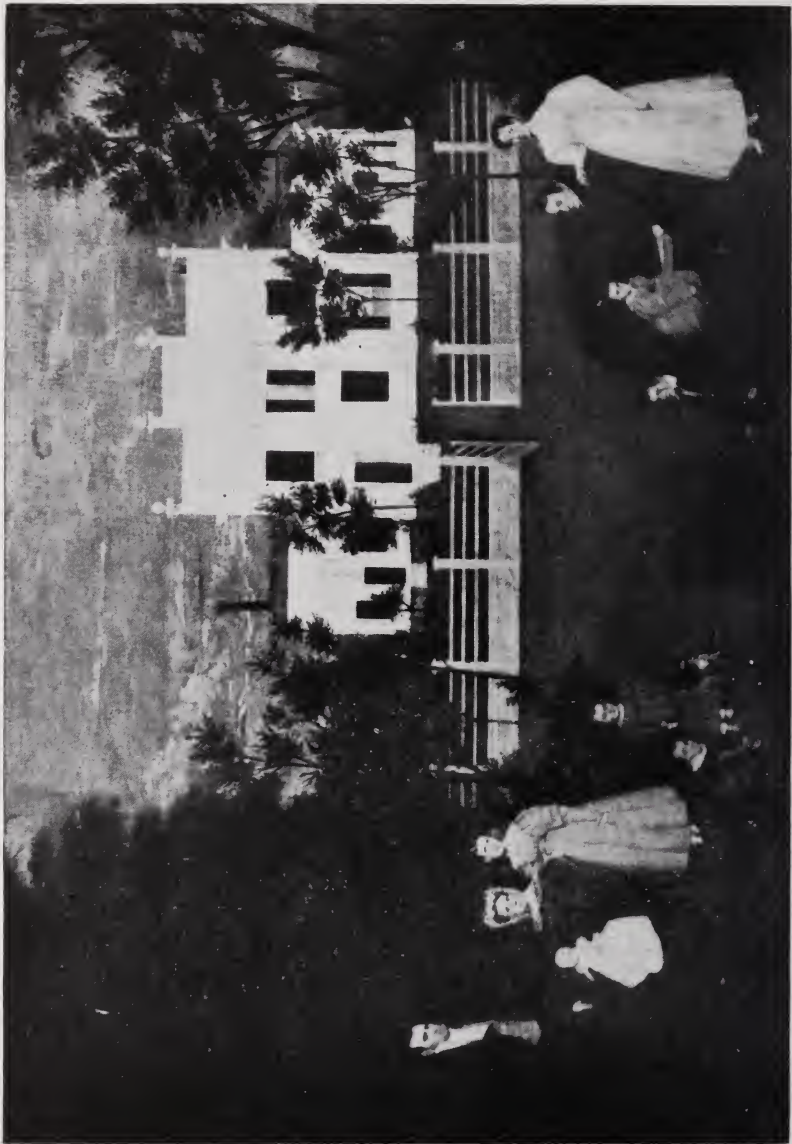
BUILT ABOUT 1825, DEMOLISHED 1865.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

The Sheldon Thompson house at Washington and Batavia street (now Broadway) was built by Jonas Harrison about 1825. Sheldon Thompson came to Buffalo from Black Rock in 1830 and purchased the Harrison house, making it his home until his death in 1851. The Misses Hills for many years occupied the house for their select school for young ladies, until it was demolished in 1865, to make way for the building of the Buffalo Savings Bank. The Grosvenor library for some years occupied the second story of the bank building, which still stands, remodeled into a theater. Older residents still recall the fine, ample garden that adjoined the house in Mr. Thompson's time.

One of our most interesting pictures is of the home of Major M. Andre Andrews, at Huron and Washington streets, the present site of the Buffalo General Electric Co.'s building. Our engraving is from an oil painting owned by Maj. Andrews' daughter, and grand-daughter, Mrs. E. H. English—now of New Haven, Conn. Major Andrews was mayor of Buffalo in 1833, and he and his wife died in this house, of cholera, in the epidemic of 1834. About 1851 the place had become the home of Charles Gruener, a portrait painter. Mr. Gruener, better known as Carl, later opened a restaurant on the site. In 1864 the place was known as Gruener's Garden, a popular resort, and it was probably at about this period that Mr. Gruener painted the picture which we reproduce. The resort underwent various changes, and in its last years was an ample and popular hotel.

The old brown frame house at the southwest corner of Court and Pearl streets, which was vacated in 1888 by the family which for many years occupied it, was one of the landmarks of the city. It was one of the first dwellings erected here after the return of the inhabitants who fled



RESIDENCE OF MAJOR A. ANDREWS, MAYOR OF BUFFALO, 1833.

SITE NOW OCCUPIED BY THE GENERAL ELECTRIC CO.'S BUILDING. FROM AN EARLY PAINTING OWNED BY MAJOR ANDREWS' GRAND-DAUGHTER, MRS. EDWIN H. ENGLISH, NEW HAVEN, CONN.



GRUENER'S GARDEN, GENESEE AND HURON STREETS.

FROM A PAINTING BY CARL GRUENER, OWNED BY THE BUFFALO GENERAL ELECTRIC CO.,
WHOSE BUILDING NOW STANDS ON THIS SITE. IN THE DISTANCE ACROSS
MAIN STREET, IS SEEN THE OLD GENESEE HOUSE.



THE ORIGINAL GRUENER'S HOTEL, HURON STREET, IN ITS LAST DAYS. REBUILT LATER.



HOUSE OF HARRY SLADE, NORTHEAST CORNER WASHINGTON AND MOHAWK STREETS.

MR. SLADE, LONG A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE IN BUFFALO, RESIDED HERE FROM 1832 FOR MANY YEARS.



HOUSE BUILT BY GEORGE PALMER, 1842; No. 765 WASHINGTON STREET.

FOR MANY YEARS THE HOME OF HON. JAMES O. PUTNAM.



THE JOHN L. KIMBERLEY HOUSE, No. 449 WASHINGTON STREET.
IN RECENT YEARS, HEADQUARTERS OF THE EXEMPT FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. NOW RE-
PLACED BY A MODERN BUILDING.

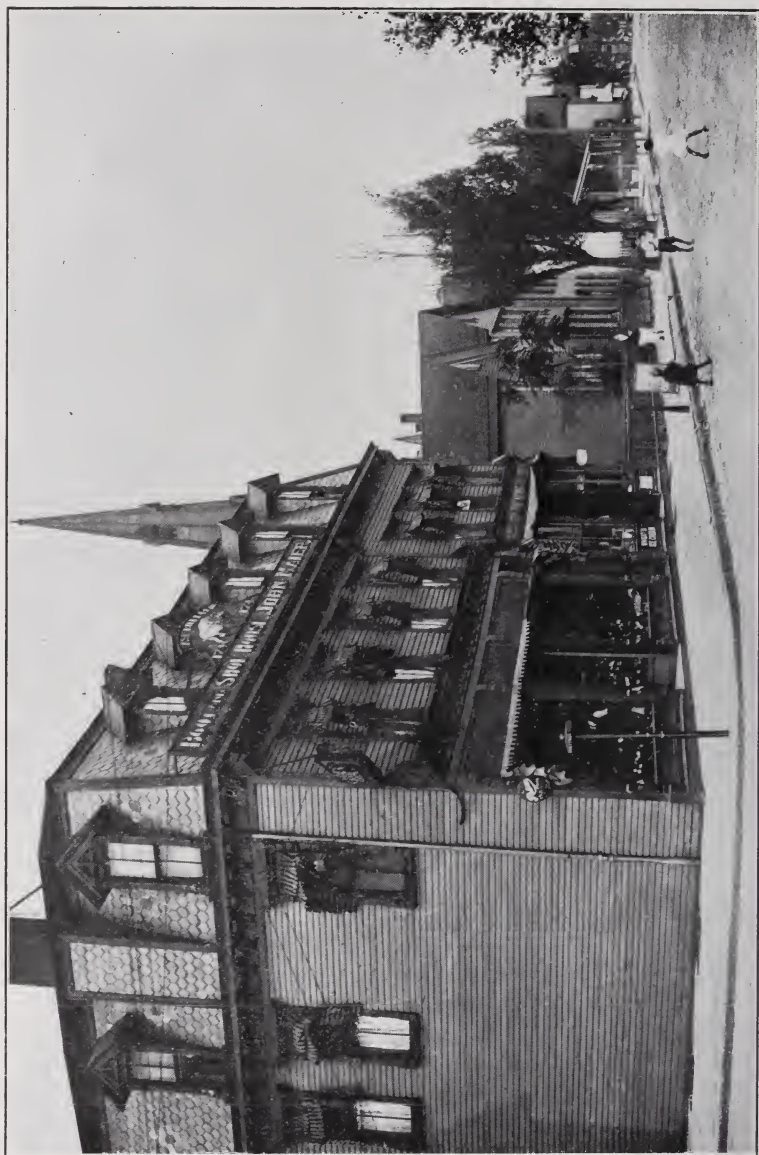


EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ST. JOHN'S ORPHAN HOME, HICKORY STREET.

BUILT IN 1864, MIDWAY BETWEEN BROADWAY AND WILLIAM STREET. TAKEN DOWN 1899. THE SITE NOW OCCUPIED BY THE PARSONAGE OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH. THE ORPHAN HOME WAS MOVED TO THE TOWN OF WEST SENECA.



FIRST CHURCH OF THE GERMAN EVANGELICAL SOCIETY.
ERECTED AT SPRUCE AND SYCAMORE STREETS, 1851.



BUILDINGS ON PECKHAM STREET, CLEARED AWAY FOR SPERRY PARK, 1912.



BUILDINGS ON MORTIMER STREET, CLEARED AWAY FOR WILLERT PARK, 1912.



THE HENRY R. SEYMOUR HOUSE, PEARL STREET NEAR SWAN.
ERECTED PRIOR TO 1830.



REV. DR. SHELTON'S RECTORY, 128 PEARL STREET.

COMPLETED, 1847. AFTER DR. SHELTON'S DEATH, ST. PAUL'S GUILD HOUSE; LATER, ST. PAUL'S PARISH HOUSE. DEMOLISHED, 1896. SITE NOW OCCUPIED BY THE MODERN PARISH HOUSE.



THE GEORGE COIT HOMESTEAD, SOUTHEAST CORNER SWAN AND PEARL STREETS.

SITE NOW COVERED BY THE PEARL STREET EXTENSION OF THE M. & T. BANK. THE MAIN PART OF THE HOUSE WAS REMOVED TO VIRGINIA STREET, WHERE IT NOW STANDS, JUST EAST OF CONVENTION HALL.



FORMER RESIDENCE OF ORSAMUS H. MARSHALL.

NORTHWEST CORNER CHURCH AND PEARL STREETS, NOW THE SITE OF THE STAFFORD BUILDING.



WEST SIDE OF DELAWARE STREET (NOW AVENUE), BETWEEN CHURCH AND EAGLE, IN 1861.
 AT EXTREME LEFT IS SEEN THE SIDE AND CHIMNEYS OF THE M. A. CAMPBELL HOUSE; NEXT, MUCH HIDDEN BY TREES, THE SMALL HOUSE
 OF MRS. THADDEUS JOY; CONTINUING TO THE RIGHT, HOUSES OF GEORGE L. NEWMAN, WALTER JOY, AND JOHN D. SHEPARD.



HOUSE BUILT BY GEN. HEMAN B. POTTER, FOR MANY YEARS THE HOME OF GEORGE R. BARCOCK.
PRESENT SITE OF THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL UNION BUILDING, NIAGARA SQUARE.



HOUSE ON NIAGARA SQUARE, ERECTED BY SAMUEL WILKESON, IN THE '20'S.
CONTINUOUSLY OCCUPIED BY THE WILKESON FAMILY FROM THAT TIME TO THE PRESENT DAY.

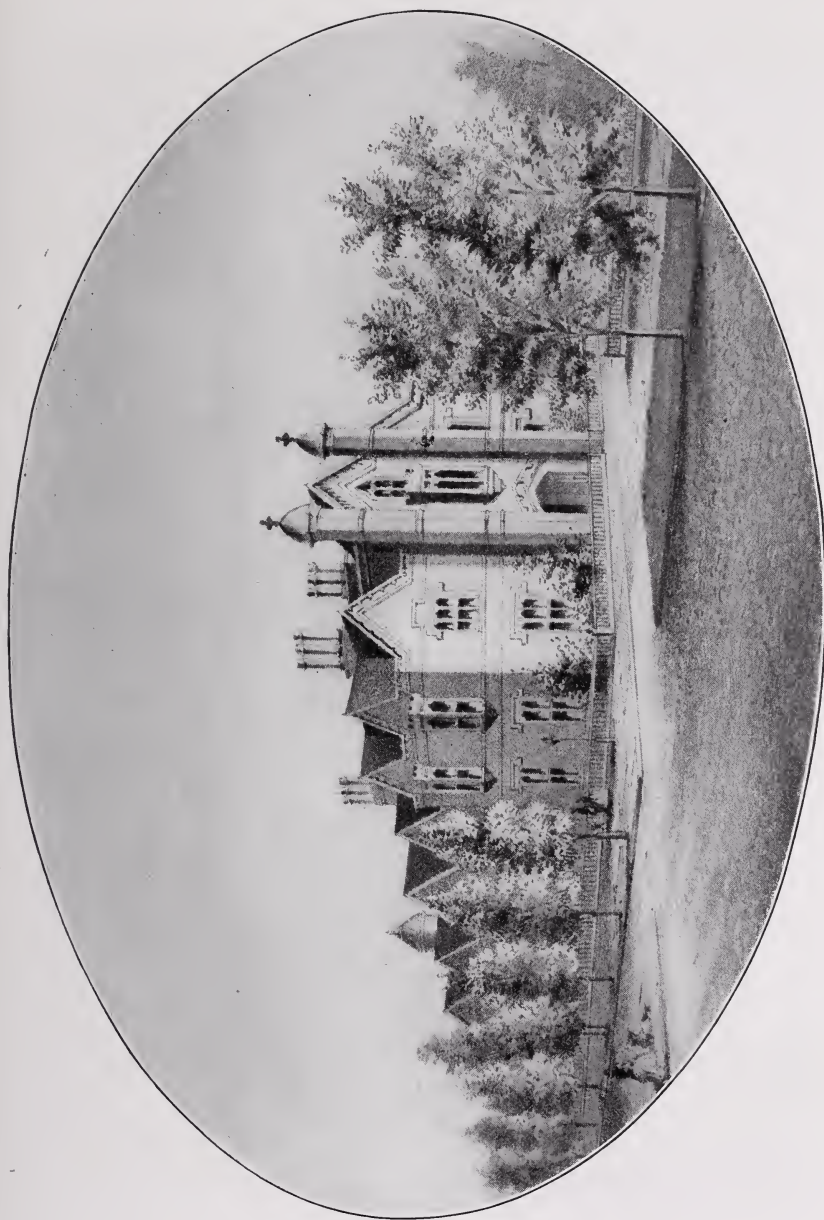


THE SIZER HOMESTEAD, No. 98 DELAWARE AVENUE.
NOW REBUILT INTO AN OFFICE BUILDING.



RESIDENCE OF MILLARD FILLMORE WHEN ELECTED VICE-PRESIDENT; FRANKLIN NEAR MOHAWK.

NOW NO. 186 FRANKLIN STREET, WITH DIFFERENT FRONT.



THE FILLMORE RESIDENCE, NIAGARA SQUARE.

BUILT FOR JAMES HOLLISTER, ABOUT 1850, AND OCCUPIED BY HIM UNTIL 1858, WHEN MR. FILLMORE BOUGHT IT, MAKING IT HIS HOME UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1874. NOW A PART OF A HOTEL. FROM A LITHOGRAPH OF ABOUT 1860.



THE BRADFORD A. MANCHESTER HOUSE, SOUTHWEST CORNER PEARL AND COURT STREETS.

BUILT BY SMITH H. SALISBURY SOON AFTER THE BURNING OF BUFFALO. A RESIDENCE UNTIL 1888.

to the adjacent towns when the British and Indians burned Buffalo in December, 1813. The main part of the house was built by Smith H. Salisbury, father of Guy S. Salisbury, "the Charles Lamb of early Buffalo." When he selected this site, the corner of Court street and Cazenovia avenue, there was then no Pearl street. It was an uptown neighborhood, healthy and open, with flower and vegetable gardens all about. The house was completed by Sheldon Ball, to whom Mr. Salisbury sold it. Mr. Ball kept a sundial on the west facade, on which every passer-by could read the inscription: "Tempus fugit."

Bradford A. Manchester, who bought the property in 1851, enlarged the house, which was occupied nearly thirty-seven years by his family. When Mrs. James Miller died, Mr. Miller gave up the old homestead, where now the Miller block stands, southwest corner, Main and Mohawk streets, and spent his last years with his daughter, Mrs. Manchester.

During Mr. Manchester's lifetime, business did not invade the neighborhood of Court and Pearl streets, and no one would have prophesied a day when a theater in Court street would be only one of many which the town would come to support. In those days an old-fashioned garden—a tangle of roses, hollyhocks and sweet peas, shaded by heavily-fruited pear, plum and cherry trees, was at the back of the house, and a lively colony of bees swarmed around the apiary. At one time before Mr. Manchester bought the property it was the home of a Catholic priest; at another period it was occupied as an orphan asylum. But from 1851 to the removal of the Manchester family it was a home-center in the truest sense, a center of hospitality and of culture. Many of the best editorials for the early press of Buffalo were written at the ancient desk in its sunny library; in its hospitable parlor innumerable programs for



SAGE HOMESTEAD, No. 35 COURT STREET.
BUILT 1832, BY JOHN SAGE. NOW THE SITE OF SHEA'S THEATER.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

old festivals have been planned. Later, a younger merry set, of which the late Mrs. Squire—Helen Fargo—was the ringleader, invaded the old parlor to discuss future co-tillions, amateur theatricals, or the latest engagement.

Until a comparatively recent date the block bounded by



SILAS KINGSLEY HOUSE, No. 119 FRANKLIN STREET.

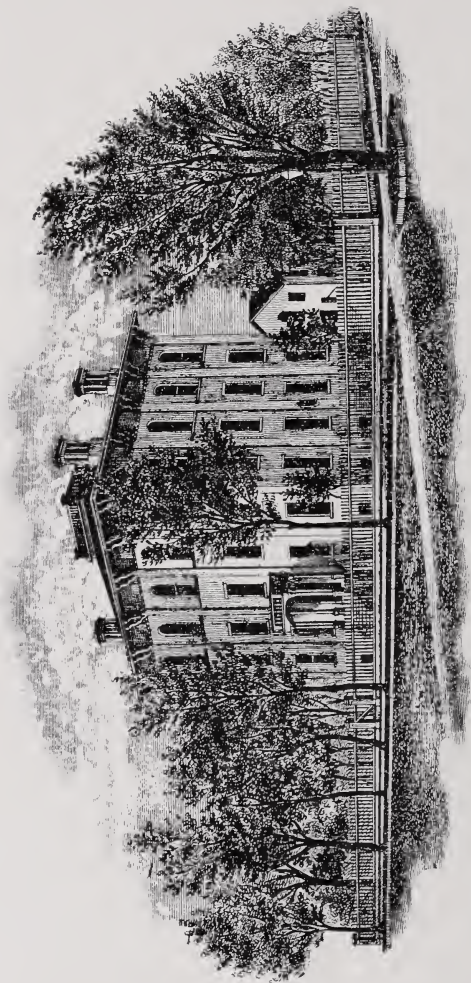


RESIDENCE OF JOHN R. LEE, No. 155 FRANKLIN STREET. ERECTED 1835.



THE HEZEKIAH A. SALISBURY HOUSE, WEST GENESEE STREET.

AT THE LEFT, THE M. S. HAWLEY HOUSE. SITE NOW COVERED BY BRYANT & STRATTON'S BUSINESS COLLEGE.



RESIDENCE OF GENERAL DAVID BURT, COURT STREET.
REBUILT AND INCLUDED IN THE PRESENT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL.



THE RICHARD H. WELLS HOUSE, NORTHWEST CORNER PEARL AND GENESEE STREETS.
 BUILT ABOUT 1855. IT HAD VARIOUS OWNERS, BUT WAS BEST KNOWN AS THE HEATHCOTE SCHOOL. TORN DOWN, 1909, FOR THE
 ERECTION OF THE MEN'S HOTEL.



HOUSE AT NORTHWEST CORNER OF PEARL AND HURON STREETS.

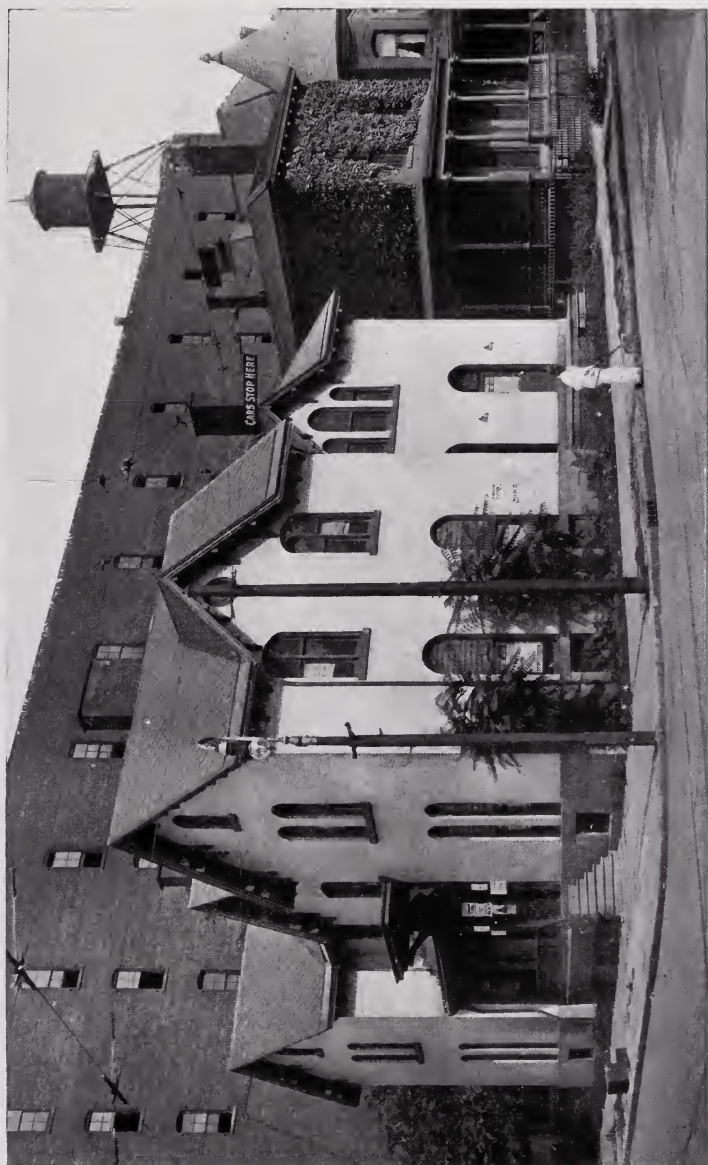
BUILT BY DR. JOSIAH TROWBRIDGE; AS EARLY AS 1843, HOME OF HENRY M. KINNE; OF ELISHA W. ENSIGN AND FAMILY, 1864 TO 1904.
TORN DOWN, 1913.



STONE HOUSES ON HURON STREET, NEAR PROSPECT AVENUE.
BUILT IN THE '40'S, REPLACED ABOUT 1900 BY MODERN STRUCTURES.



HOUSE BUILT BY DR. THOS. F. ROCHESTER, N. W. CORNER FRANKLIN AND HURON STREETS.
THE HOME OF BURRALL SPENCER FROM 1860 FOR MANY YEARS; FROM 1880 TO 1893, RESIDENCE OF CHARLES G. CURTISS.



THE CURTISS HOUSE IN ITS LAST DAYS. FOR A TIME IT WAS A RESTAURANT.
 IN THE REAR, MILLER'S STABLES. THE VINE-CLAD HOUSE AT THE RIGHT, HOME (AMONG OTHERS) OF DR. WM. C. BARRETT, WAS ALSO
 TORN DOWN, 1912. THE SITE OF THESE HOUSES IS NOW COVERED BY THE CURTISS BUILDING.



HOMESTEAD OF DR. WILLIAM K. SCOTT, NO. 78 W. MOHAWK STREET.
UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1911, THE HOME AND STUDIO OF DR. SCOTT'S SON-IN-LAW, LARS G. SELLESTEDT.

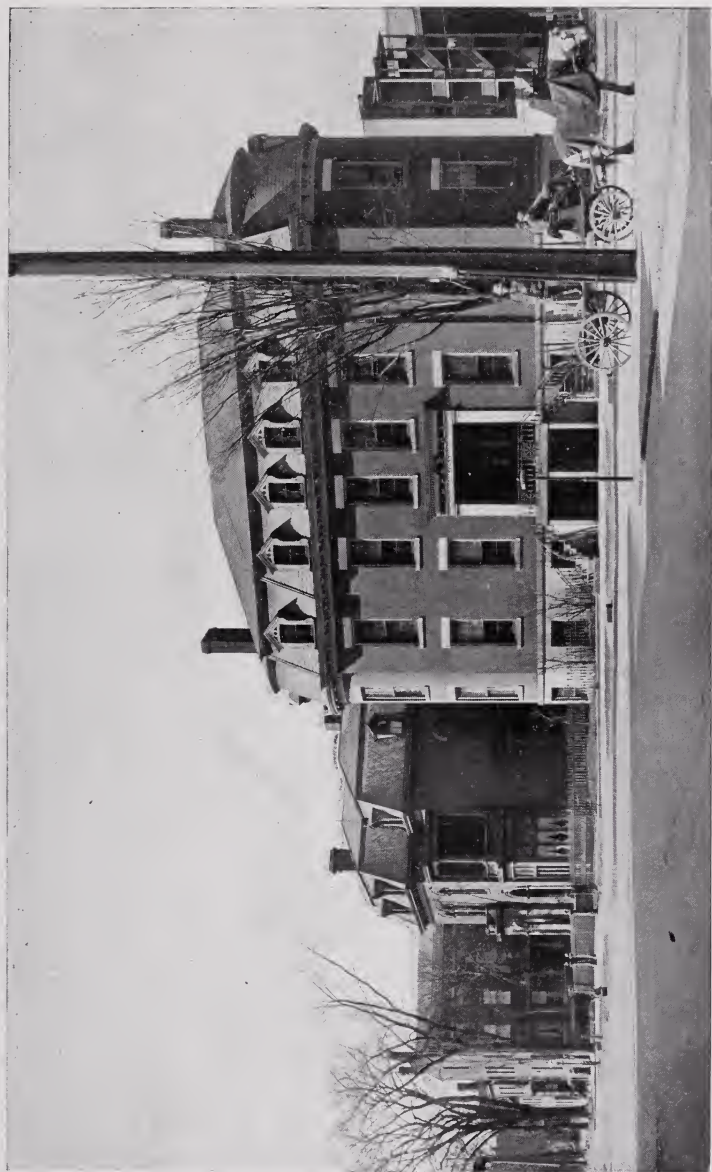


IN THE OLD SELSTEDT HOUSE; A CORNER IN BUFFALO'S MOST FAMOUS STUDIO.



HOUSE BUILT BY DR. BRYANT BURWELL ABOUT 1850.

NORTHWEST CORNER MOHAWK AND FRANKLIN STREETS. LATER, THE RESIDENCE OF DR. A. R. WRIGHT. ADJOINING ON THE RIGHT, THE FORMER RESIDENCE OF JOSEPH CLARY. BOTH TAKEN DOWN, JANUARY, 1913.



FORMER RESIDENCE OF TOWNSEND DAVIS AND CYRUS CLARK, MOHAWK AND GENESEE STREETS.

NEXT TO IT, ON THE LEFT, FORMER RESIDENCE OF JOHN S. NOYE, LATER OF HON. PHILIP BECKER. THESE SITES NOW COVERED BY THE Y. M. C. A. BUILDING.



RESIDENCE AT 198 FRANKLIN STREET, FOR SOME YEARS HOME OF HON. NATHAN K. HALL.
LATER THE RESIDENCE OF JARED H. TILDEN. SITE NOW COVERED BY THE LITTELL BUILDING.



SOUTHEAST CORNER DELAWARE AVENUE AND CHIPPEWA STREET.



THE JOHN S. GANSON HOUSE, NORTHWEST CORNER DELAWARE AVENUE AND CHIPPEWA STREET.
BUILT IN THE '30'S, AND WITH VARIOUS OWNERSHIPS; IT WAS THE BUFFALO CLUB, 1870-'87; NOW REMODELED FOR BUSINESS USES.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

Pearl, Court, Franklin and Niagara streets was in fact a neighborhood of old residents. William G. Fargo lived, when mayor of Buffalo, at the corner of Franklin and Niagara streets. Next to him was Dr. Loomis; beyond, Mr. and Mrs. Silas Kingsley. Above them was Dr. Hoxie, a younger resident, and on the corner of Franklin and Court streets, Mr. and Mrs. Eurotas Marvin, whose home was for years a center of the gay life of the young people. In Court street, on the present site of Shea's Theater, lived Hampton Dodge; next door to him Captain Williams. Beyond, also included in the theater site, was the residence of Mr. and Mrs. John Sage. It was only yesterday, so to speak, that the old-time flower gardens of Mrs. David Burt adorned the corner of Pearl and Court streets—opposite the Manchester homestead—now covered by a business block. The Tracy mansion, on the lot next below the old Burt place, and on the corner of Franklin, was the last residence in this locality to remind us that the neighborhood was once the Washington Square of early Buffalo and its fashion.

The Hutchinson High School, for which ground was broken in March, 1913, will with its grounds occupy the site of several residences of former prominent citizens of Buffalo, among them Mr. E. H. Hutchinson and his father, John M. Hutchinson; the latter a resident of Buffalo from 1838 till his death in 1886, prominent in business, Fire Commissioner, President of the Young Men's Association, etc.; the son active in many business and administrative interests, and with Mrs. Hutchinson donor to the city of the fine property on which is building the Hutchinson High School. However attractive those school grounds may be, they will not equal in beauty the Hutchinson garden, of which one of our pictures gives a glimpse.

In these same High School grounds is the site of the



THE HUTCHINSON HOMESTEAD ON CHIPPEWA STREET.

BUILT 1853, BY DENNIS BOWEN. BOUGHT BY E. H. HUTCHINSON, 1882; PRESENTED TO THE CITY FOR HIGH SCHOOL PURPOSES BY MR. AND MRS. HUTCHINSON, 1909, AND SOON AFTER TORN DOWN.



IN THE GARDEN OF THE HUTCHINSON HOMESTEAD.

THESE AMPLE GROUNDS, ONCE BEAUTIFUL, WERE LAID WASTE WHEN THE HOUSE WAS DEMOLISHED. THE PLACE IS THE SITE OF THE HUTCHINSON HIGH SCHOOL, FOR WHICH CONSTRUCTION WAS BEGUN IN MARCH, 1913.



RESIDENCE OF JAMES D. SHEPPARD, No. 175 CHIPPEWA STREET.
BUILT 1844. SITE NOW INCLUDED IN THE HUTCHINSON HIGH SCHOOL GROUNDS.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

house, built in 1844 by James D. Sheppard, and occupied by him and his family for many years. Mr. Sheppard has been called the "Father of Music in Buffalo." Born at From, England, January 16, 1798, he was a trained musician and a skilful player on several instruments before he emigrated to America in 1827. He came to Buffalo in that year and is said to have brought here the first piano ever in the place. It is told that he used to play on it to the great delight of crowds that gathered in the old Eagle Tavern.

At the time of his death, October 24, 1881, the *Courier* said: "He established the pioneer music store of the lower lake region, in the northeast corner of the old Court House and there the Indians, when they came to town, used to resort to hear the 'big music box sing.'" He was not for long the sole possessor of a piano in Buffalo, for Bela D. Coe bought one from him in 1828, and Noah P. Sprague shortly afterwards became the owner of the third.

The second year of Mr. Sheppard's residence in Buffalo he removed to a store adjoining the Eagle Hotel, and afterwards to the corner of Main and Niagara streets. With Hugh Cottier, he later formed the firm of Sheppard & Cottier, dealers in musical instruments and music, and that firm, under the varying styles of Sheppard, Cottier & Co., Sheppard, Cottier & Denton, Denton & Cottier, and Denton, Cottier & Daniels, still continues. For more than a quarter of a century Mr. Sheppard was organist of St. Paul's church, transferring in later years to Trinity. He gave instructions on the piano, violin and organ, and probably did more than any other man of his generation to create in the community a taste and appreciation for good music. There have been few Buffalo homes to which attached more worthy associations than the Sheppard house, with a garden surrounding it which for many years was Mr. Sheppard's delight and a



HOUSES ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF JOHNSON PARK, WEST FROM ELMWOOD AVENUE, 1912.
THE REMOVAL OF THESE BUILDINGS IS A PART OF THE CITY'S PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THAT VICINITY.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

source of pleasure to all who saw it. The house was torn down some twenty years ago.

The former residence of Mr. J. N. Larned on Johnson Park is said to have been made up of two houses, moved from other sites. Among earlier occupants were Mr. Frank M. Hollister and the late Robert Dunbar. In 1895-6 Mr. Larned rebuilt it, clearing away the older structure in the rear. The picture affords a glimpse of the house after reconstruction. Elmwood avenue now runs over its former site.

Several of our views show the private grounds of Mr. Bronson C. Rumsey, commonly called Rumsey Park, before the destructive Elmwood-avenue extension was made. Before Mr. Rumsey built his residence on Delaware avenue,

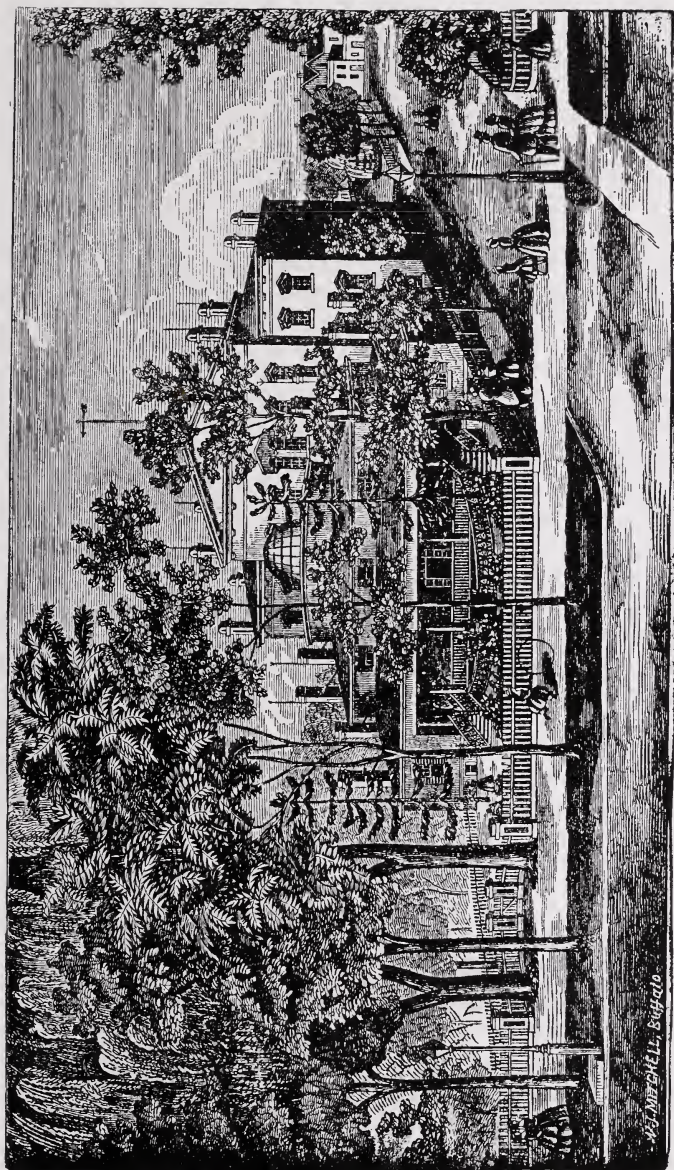


FORMER HOME OF MR. J. N. LARNED.

NO. 35 JOHNSON PARK. OWNED AND OCCUPIED FOR MANY YEARS BY ROBERT DUNBAR. REBUILT 1895-6, TORN DOWN FOR ELMWOOD AVENUE EXTENSION, 1911.



THE JOHNSON COTTAGE, DELAWARE AVENUE, BUILT 1833-4.
RESIDENCE OF EBENEZER JOHNSON, FIRST MAYOR OF BUFFALO.

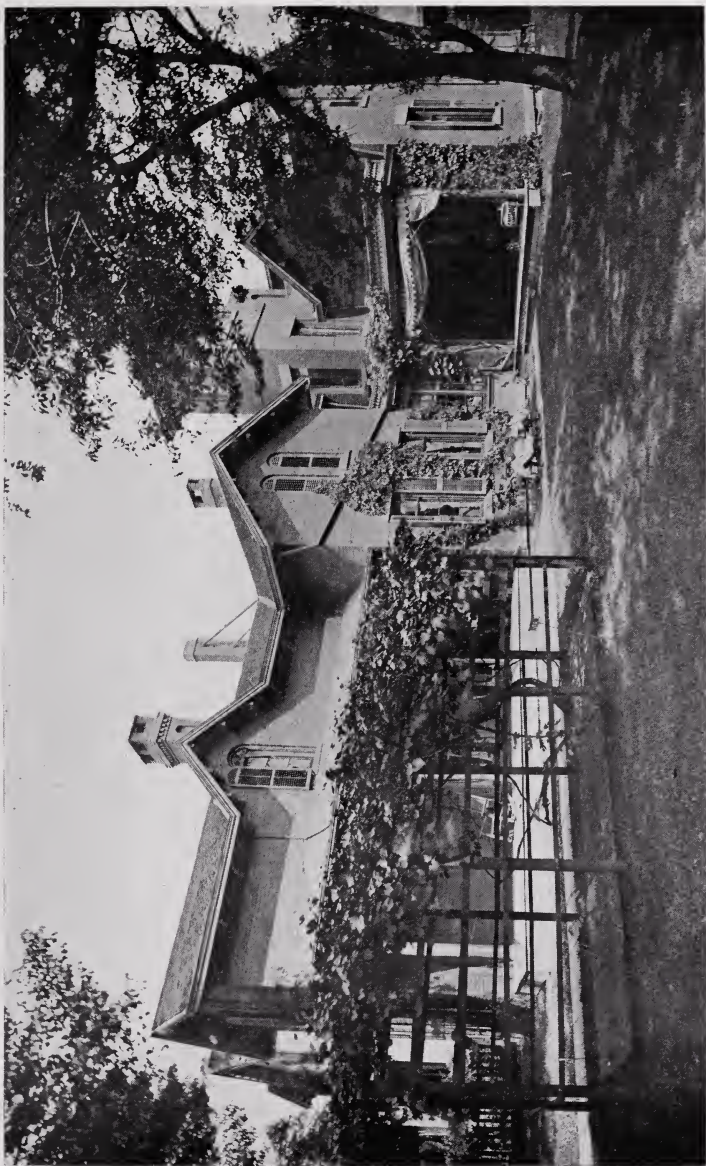


AN EARLY WOODCUT OF THE JOHNSON COTTAGE AND GOODELL HALL.



THE JOHNSON COTTAGE AND VICINITY IN THE '30's.

FROM AN OIL PAINTING MADE SOON AFTER THE HOUSE WAS BUILT, NOW OWNED BY THE BUFFALO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.



OLD HOUSE, DELAWARE AVENUE AND PARK PLACE (No. 1 JOHNSON PARK).

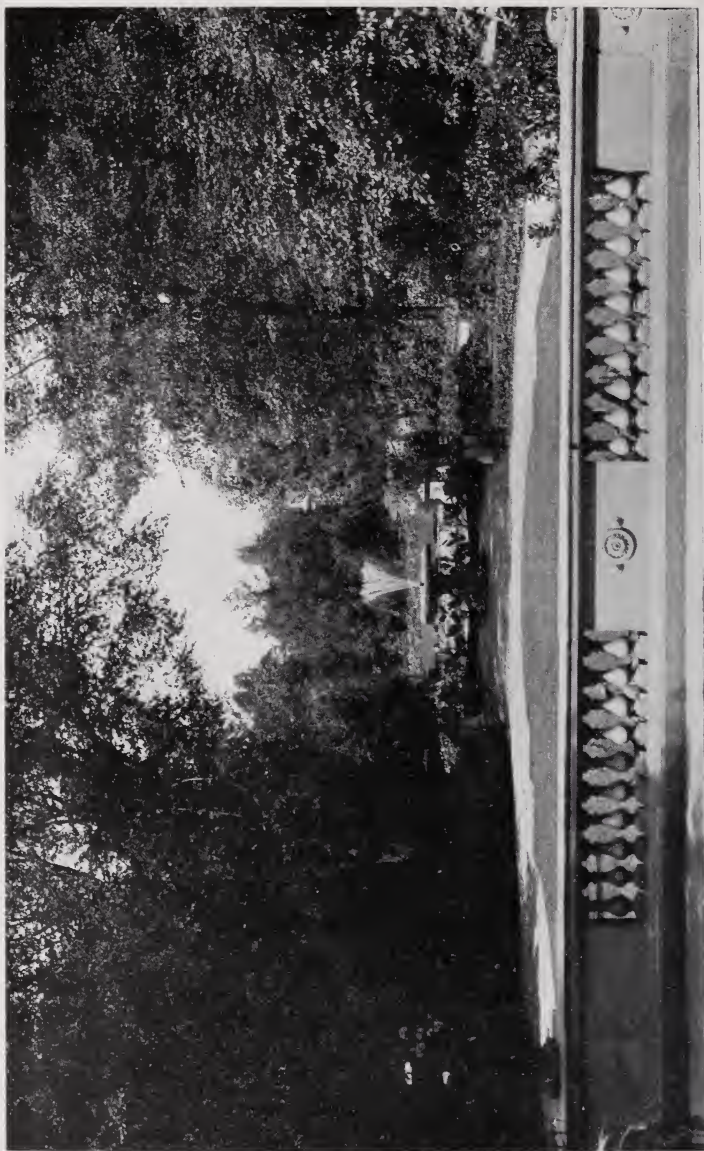
FROM 1850 TO 1862, THE RESIDENCE OF MR. BRONSON C. RUMSEY.



REAR VIEW OF THE BRONSON C. RUMSEY HOUSE (DELAWARE AND TRACY), FROM THE GROUNDS.
THIS AND FOLLOWING VIEWS ARE FROM PHOTOGRAPHS MADE BEFORE THE EXTENSION OF ELMWOOD AVENUE.

in 1862, the ample grounds to the westward were practically in a state of nature. Emily street, to run from Delaware to Carolina, between Tupper and Tracy street, was discontinued as a street in 1854. This area, included in Mr. Rumsey's purchase, also included a fine natural spring, which was utilized in beautifying the grounds. In Mr. Rumsey's employ were Henry and Edward Rose, brothers, both architects, who had come to Buffalo from England. The principal features of Rumsey Park were of their designing. The abundant spring made possible a pretty lake of clear water. The topography of the spot was carefully studied, and the native forest trees were augmented by judicious planting. A boat house, a tiny Swiss chalet, was set at the water-side, and a little Grecian temple, now destroyed, bespoke the taste of the owner. The gardens near the house were terraced, set with flowers and fountains. For half a century this beauty spot in the heart of the city was the joy of its owner and his friends. It was the ideal setting for many festivities and social gatherings, and in the skating season no place was so popular for those privileged to use it, as Rumsey Park. Surrounded, except on the house side, by a very high tight-board fence, it naturally aroused the curiosity and perhaps the envy of strangers and "outsiders" generally. At the present hour, some of the buildings are gone and Elmwood avenue traffic cuts through this charming demesne. The spring still flows, and some fine old trees guard the lake; but what its future will be is beyond the ken or the province of the present chronicle.

The Rose brothers, whose name is associated with Rumsey Park, were the architects of at least one Main-street building, yet standing. They were eccentric and in their last years led a singular recluse life, in shabby lodgings in



IN RUMSEY PARK: VISTA FROM THE HOUSE.



IN RUMSEY PARK: FROM THE LAKE, LOOKING TOWARDS DELAWARE AVENUE.



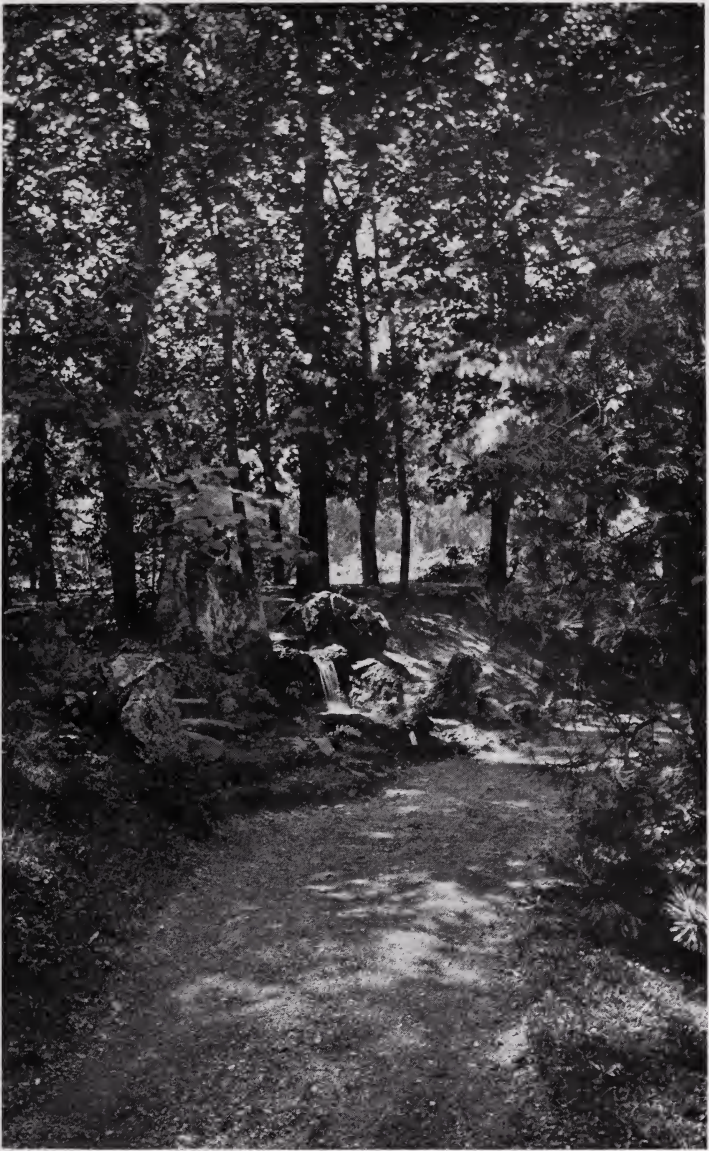
IN RUMSEY PARK: LAKE AND CHALET, SPIRE OF CALVARY CHURCH IN DISTANCE.



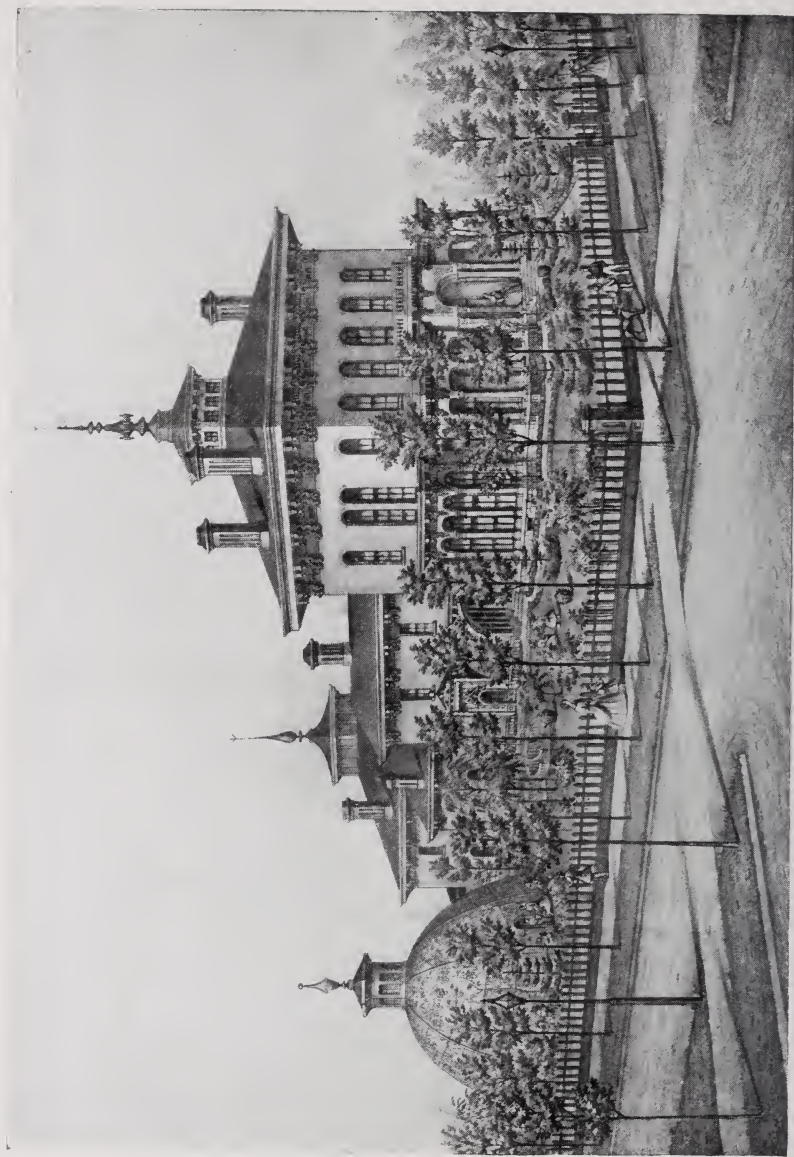
IN RUMSEY PARK: LAKE AND WOODED ISLAND.



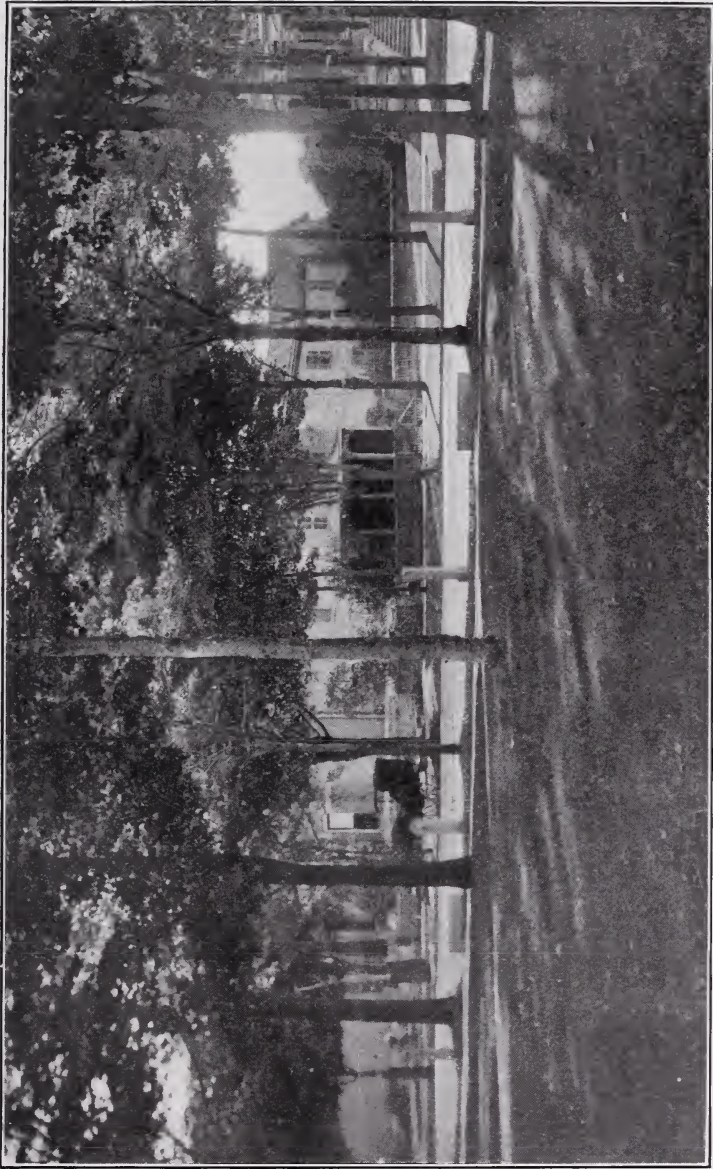
IN RUMSEY PARK: A BEAUTY SPOT SPOILED BY STREET EXTENSION.
SOUTH ELMWOOD AVENUE NOW CUTS THROUGH THESE LONG-FAMOUS GROUNDS.



IN RUMSEY PARK: A WOODLAND CASCADE.



RESIDENCE OF AARON RUMSEY, NORTHWEST CORNER DELAWARE AVENUE AND NORTH STREET.
 FROM AN EARLY LITHOGRAPH. PRESENT SITE OF THE HOUSE BUILT FOR MR. GEORGE L. WILLIAMS, NOW THE RESIDENCE OF MR. E. H.
 BUTLER.



THE WEST SIDE OF DELAWARE AVENUE, ABOVE VIRGINIA STREET, ABOUT 1870.
AT RIGHT OF CENTER IS THE HOUSE OF THOMAS CARY WELCH. THE WHOLE SITE IS NOW CLOSELY REBUILT WITH MODERN RESIDENCES



THE S. V. R. WATSON HOUSE. THE BUFFALO CLUB SINCE 1887.
ORIGINALLY MUCH SMALLER, IT HAS UNDERGONE RADICAL REMODELING SINCE THE PICTURE WAS MADE.



ONE OF THE OFFICERS' HOUSES OF POINSETT BARRACKS. BUILT ABOUT 1840.

NOW THE RESIDENCE OF MR. ANSLEY WILCOX, NO. 641 DELAWARE AVENUE. IN THIS HOUSE THEODORE ROOSEVELT TOOK THE OATH OF OFFICE AS PRESIDENT, SEPTEMBER 14, 1901. AT ONE PERIOD, THE RESIDENCE OF ASHER T. NICHOLS.

Albert B. Lansing



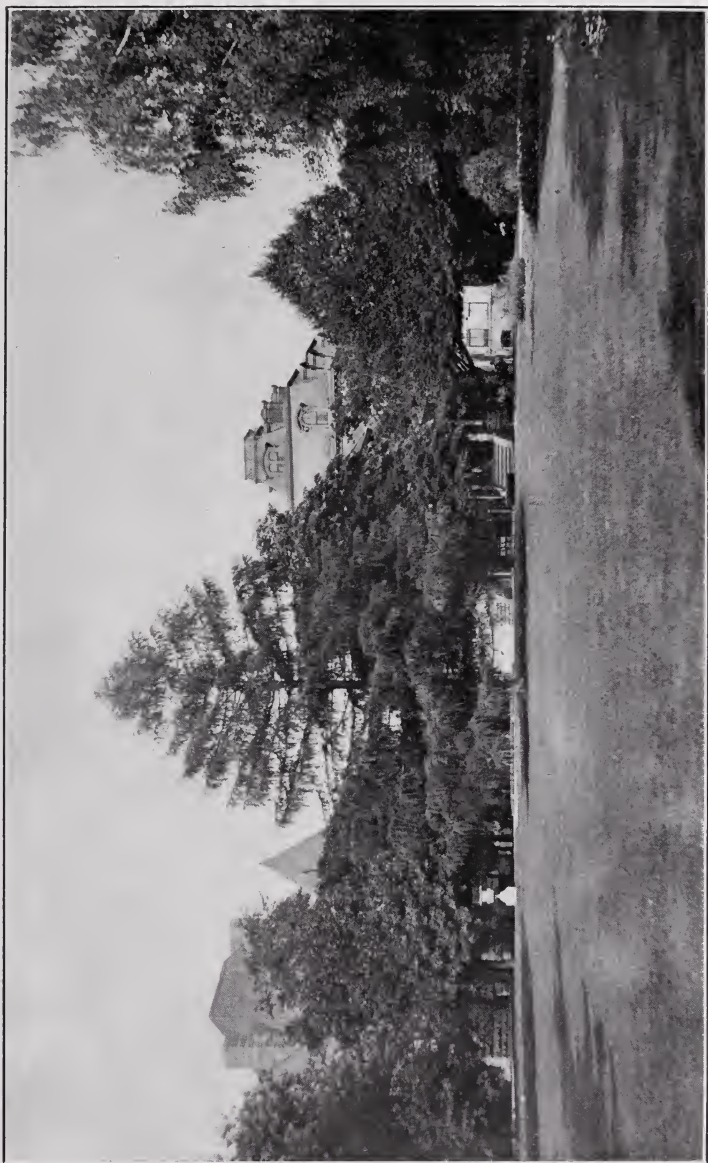
SOUTHWEST CORNER NORTH AND DELAWARE, FOR MANY YEARS A CEMETERY.
NOW BUILT UP TO RESIDENCE AND HOTEL PROPERTIES.



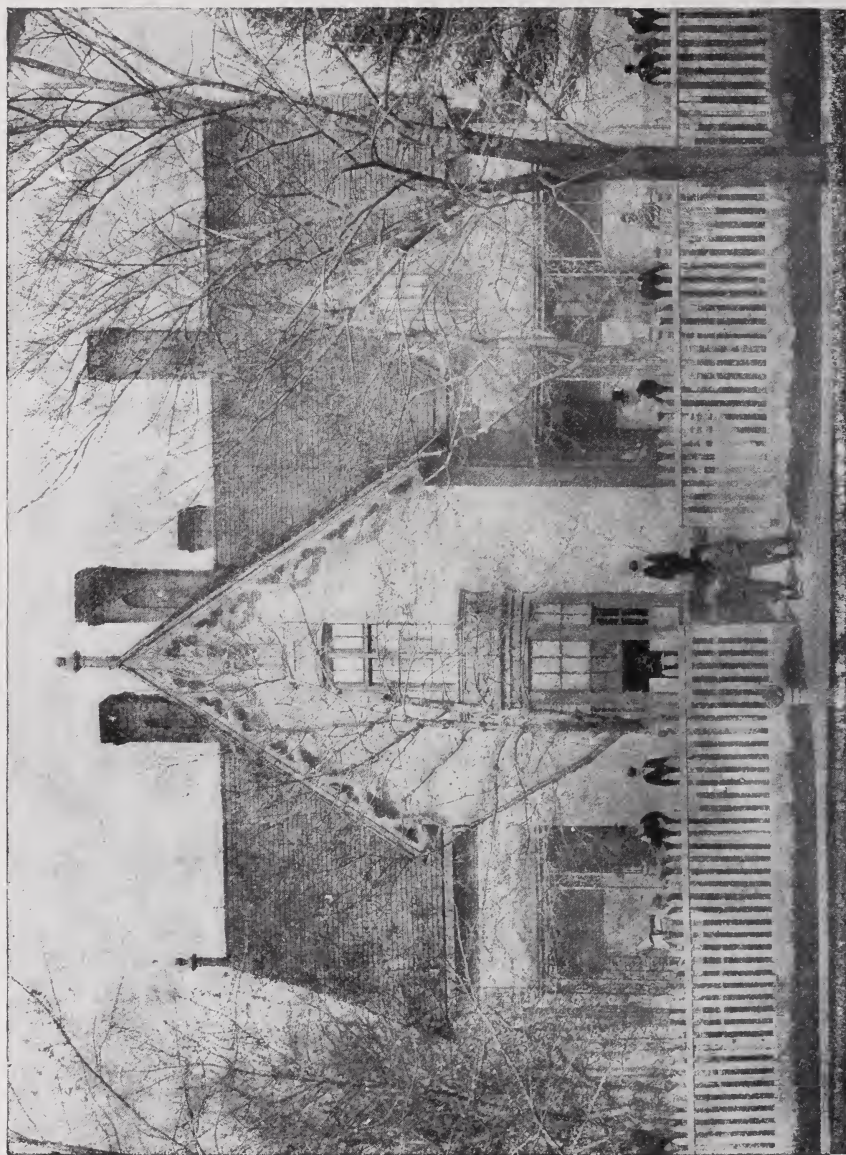
IN THE GROUNDS OF THE NORTH STREET CEMETERY, NOW SITE OF THE LENOX HOTEL.



RESIDENCE OF MYRON P. BUSH, NORTHWEST CORNER DELAWARE AVENUE AND SUMMER STREET.
ERECTED 1859-'60. TORN DOWN, 1903, FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE F. H. GOODYEAR MANSION.



IN THE GROUNDS OF THE MYRON P. BUSH PROPERTY.
ORIGINALLY OVER FIVE ACRES ADJOINED THE HOUSE, WHICH WAS DEMOLISHED IN 1903.



RESIDENCE OF E. S. DANN, SOUTHWEST CORNER DELAWARE AVENUE AND UTICA STREET.
PRESENT SITE OF THE NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

the old Arcade. They died within a few days of each other, in 1882, in abject poverty.

Two of our pictures afford views at the southwest corner of Delaware avenue and North street, when that site was a cemetery. Five acres, extending west to Bowery street, now Irving place, were used for burials for some years from about 1830. For many years, the old cemetery lay unused, and is said to have suggested to Mark Twain, during his residence in Buffalo, his story of "The Discontented Graveyard." The property passed into the hands of the Forest Lawn Association, the bodies were reburied at Forest Lawn, and the old lot was sold. The Lenox hotel and the residence of Mr. Robert Root, at the corner of Delaware and North, are among the buildings now on this site.

The handsome home of Myron P. Bush, west side of Delaware above Summer, was built in 1859-60, from plans by J. D. Towle, a Boston architect of distinction. He was the designer of Mr. George Howard's house, and also of the William G. Fargo house. The first house in Buffalo, built in the style which Mr. Towle employed, was the Bronson C. Rumsey house. The Bush residence stood in the midst of five and a quarter acres, beautifully planted and kept. Mr. Myron P. Bush died in 1885, his son Mr. John W. Bush residing there until 1896. In 1903 the property was bought by Mr. Frank H. Goodyear, and the house was torn down before the erection of the Goodyear house, now standing.

The house at the southwest corner of Delaware avenue and Utica street, built in 1853 by George B. Webster, passed to his daughter, Mrs. E. S. Dann, and continued the home of Mr. Dann and family until shortly before the North Presbyterian church was erected on its site, 1905-'06.



THE EDMUND J. NEWMAN RESIDENCE, DELAWARE AVENUE AND UTICA STREET.
SITE NOW OCCUPIED BY THE NEW ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL.

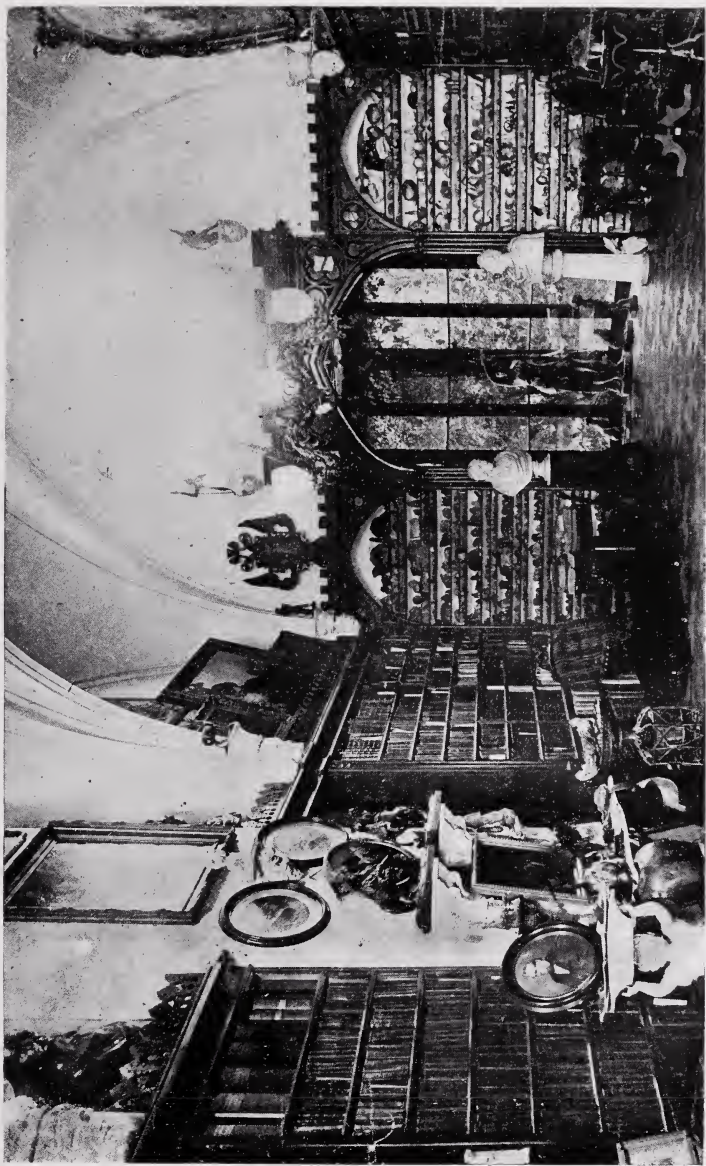


HOUSE OF FREDERICK P. STEVENS, DELAWARE AVE. CORNER OF BARKER ST.

MR. STEVENS, MAYOR OF BUFFALO, 1856-57, RESIDED HERE FOR MANY YEARS. LATER, IT WAS THE HOME OF JOSEPH P. DUDLEY, NOW REPLACED BY A MODERN MANSION.

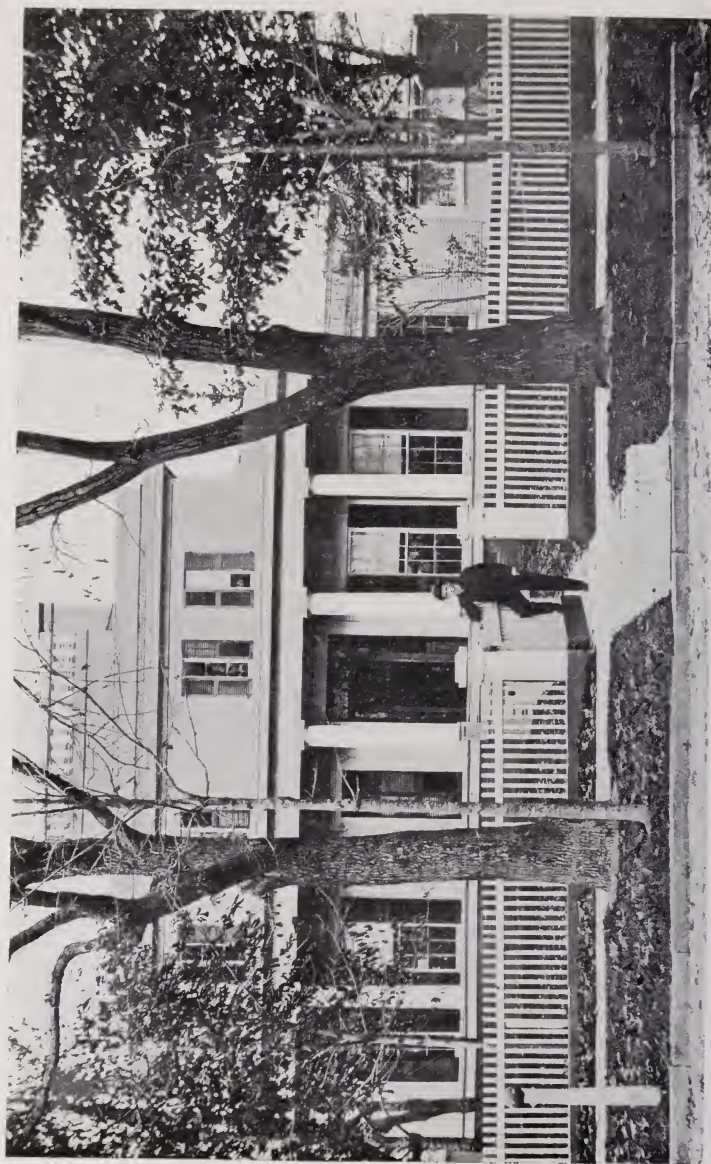


RESIDENCE OF REV. JOHN C. LORD, D.D., DELAWARE AVENUE NEAR PRESENT POTOMAC AVENUE.
TORN DOWN 1894. THE PICTURE SHOWS MRS. LORD'S SHETLAND PONIES, FAMILIAR IN BUFFALO IN THEIR OWNER'S DAY.



DR. LORD'S LIBRARY IN THE OLD DELAWARE AVENUE HOUSE.

THESE BOOKS ARE NOW OWNED BY THE CITY OF BUFFALO, AND CARED FOR BY THE BUFFALO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.



THE RESIDENCE OF HENRY C. WALKER, NOW No. 175 NORTH STREET.
FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN IN 1867. SITE NOW OCCUPIED BY MR. ANDREW LANGDON'S RESIDENCE.



EARLY VIEW OF THE HOUSE BUILT ABOUT 1854, NOW No. 221 NORTH STREET.

THE LAND, PART OF THE JESSE KETCHUM HOMESTEAD, SOLD IN 1854 TO WILLIAM OVINGTON, WHO BUILT THE HOUSE. IN 1864, SOLD TO HENRY C. TUCKER; OWNED AND OCCUPIED BY FRANK O. DRULLARD AND FAMILY, 1867-70. LATER OWNED BY GEORGE B. HAYES, NOW OWNED AND OCCUPIED BY MR. JOHN R. WILLIAMS.



THE JESSE KETCHUM HOMESTEAD ON NORTH STREET.

DRAWN BY MILDRED C. GREEN, FROM SKETCHES AND OTHER DATA SUPPLIED BY DR. JOHN KETCHUM, WHO FOR A TIME LIVED IN THIS HOUSE WITH HIS UNCLE JESSE.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

One of our pictures shows the interesting old homestead of Jesse Ketchum, on the north side of North street, west of present Elmwood avenue. Mr. Ketchum was born at Spencerport, Columbia Co., N. Y., March 1, 1782. In 1799 he went to Little York, now Toronto, where he engaged in the tannery business with a brother. In 1845 he moved to Buffalo, residing here until his death, Sept. 7, 1867. He was a true philanthropist, and but few of his many benefactions can be recited. Westminster church owes its existence to his liberality. He gave to the State about five acres, lying between York, Jersey, Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets. On this land a Normal School was built, and a new one is now building. No one has ever taken a livelier interest in the Buffalo public schools. In his lifetime, this interest was shown in many ways; and is perpetuated by the Ketchum medals, awarded annually to pupils for excellence in their work.

Our picture of the North-street homestead is from sketches made by Dr. John Ketchum, who as a boy lived there for a time with his uncle Jesse. He recalls the ample grounds to the west and north of the house, where among the trees "Father" Ketchum built a miniature circular railway, for the delight of the children who visited him. The trees in front of the house were surrounded with flower-beds, and at the east of the house, a lane or side drive from North street gave access to the residence, the conservatory, woodsheds and stables. Several of Buffalo's finest residences now occupy this site.

Of one of the most interesting early Buffalo houses, the Sidway residence on Hudson street, Mr. Frank S. Sidway



HOUSE BUILT BY HON. THOMAS M. FOOTE, NORTH STREET AND ELMWOOD AVENUE.
SUCCESSIVELY OCCUPIED BY HON. JOSEPH G. MASTEN AND JAMES D. WARREN. SITE NOW OCCUPIED BY THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST,
SCIENTIST.

kindly sends to the Buffalo Historical Society the following data :

"The old house, as I have been told, was built by Benjamin Rathbun about 1834 or 1835 for Pierre A. Barker. My grandfather, Jonathan Sidway, bought the property Feb. 3, 1845. I think he must have lived in the house before he bought it, because I have heard my uncle Jonathan Sidway tell about being in the house during the gale of 1844, when one of the chimneys was blown over and crashed through the roof of the house, and all of the men in the family were busy trying to patch up the hole and cover it over so that the roof would not blow off. Jonathan Sidway, Sr., died Jan. 21, 1847, leaving nine children. Only four of them grew up. They were, in the order of their ages, Katherine R., who married Asaph S. Bemis ; Jonathan, who married Caroline B. Taunt ; Franklin, who married Charlotte Spaulding ; and James H., who was killed in the fire that destroyed the American Hotel.

"My grandmother Sidway was fond of entertaining, and I have heard stories of various parties that she gave at one time or another. At one party that she gave in the late 50's, she had a soda water fountain installed in the grounds. I believe this was one of the first soda-water fountains ever seen in Buffalo, and it made a great impression on the people who were there.

"When the house was first built, there were very few buildings between it and Lake Erie. After my grandmother's death in 1879, the house came to my father, and he moved out there. On the side of the house toward West avenue, then Eleventh street, there were three drawing-rooms on the ground floor. These were furnished with carved rosewood furniture made by Cutler, upholstered in satin damask. The two end drawing-rooms had white



THE SIDWAY HOMESTEAD ON HUDSON STREET.

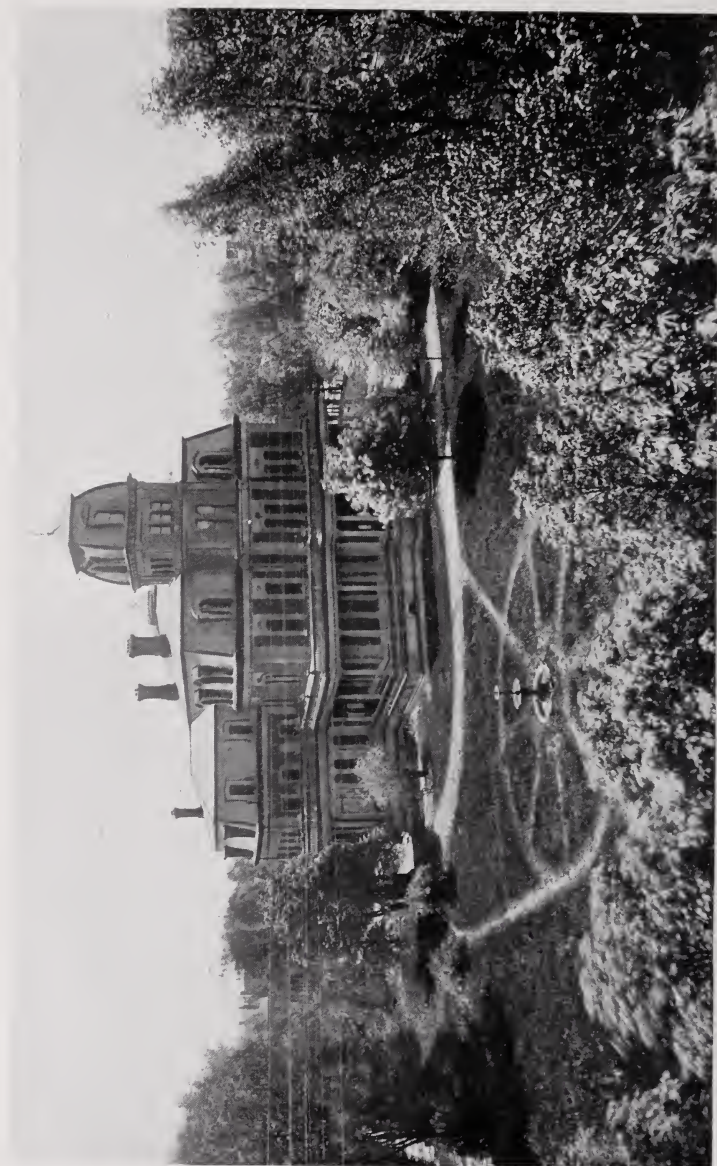
BUILT BY BENJAMIN RATHBUN FOR PIERRE A. BARKER, 1834-5. OWNED AND OCCUPIED BY JONATHAN SIDWAY AND FAMILY, 1844-1890. TORN DOWN SOON AFTER.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

marble mantels, very elaborately carved, and there was a large, gilt mirror over each of these mantels. Like a great many of the other houses built at that time, the ceilings were very high, and there were heavy gilt cornices over all of the doors and windows. The wall paper had a dark red ground with blue corn-flowers. These rooms were carpeted with dark red velvet carpets. There was a great deal of handsome plaster work on the walls and ceilings. A large part of the cornice of the room was gilded with gold leaf. The general style of the room was French of the period of Louis XV.



DRAWING ROOM, SIDWAY HOUSE.



RESIDENCE AND GROUNDS OF WILLIAM G. FARGO.

THE PROPERTY BOUNDED BY FARGO AND WEST AVENUES, PENNSYLVANIA AND JERSEY STREETS. THE HOUSE BUILT 1868-79, TAKEN DOWN 1900. THE ENTIRE SITE NOW BUILT UP WITH SMALLER HOUSES.

"On the other side of the main hall was a room which we used to call our sitting room, which would now be called the living room. It had a large black marble mantel piece. There was a cross hall, which ran from the main hall, behind this sitting room, to the dining room. This hall really ran clear across the main part of the house, but the part between the two large drawing rooms was cut off by a glass partition, and formed the middle drawing room. At one time there was an entrance at the end of this hall between the two drawing rooms.

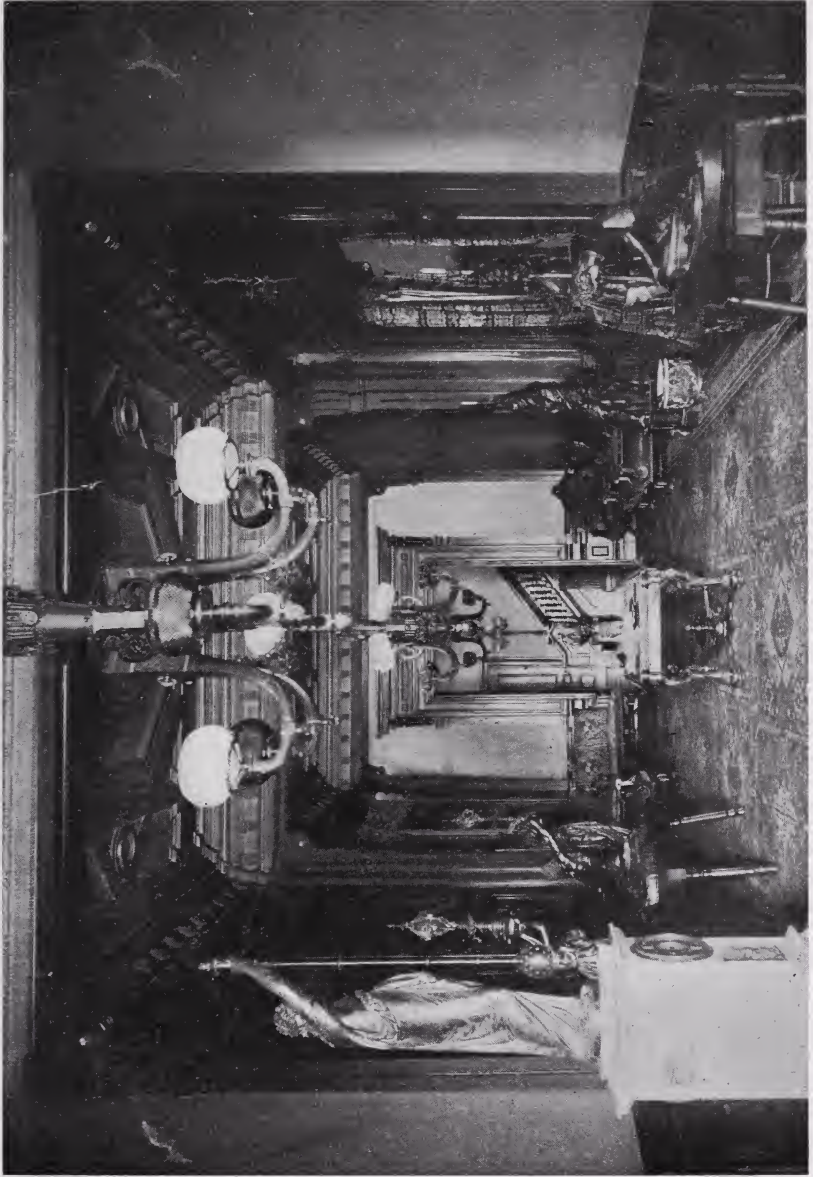
"The main staircase of the house began with the junction of this cross hall with the main hall. It was in the form of an ellipse. The stairs wound around a little more than half way before they reached the landing on the second floor. The stairs from the second floor to the attic were directly over the stairs from the first floor to the second floor. There was quite a large well-hole running from the roof to the ground floor. Originally there was a skylight over this well-hole, but as the skylight always leaked, either my grandfather or my grandmother built a cupola on the top of the house, leaving the skylight in place.

"The dining-room was in the wing on the side of the house toward Plymouth avenue. There was a glass enclosed piazza in front of it, which we used to call the conservatory, although we never had any plants in it.

"The grounds were laid out in large circles. There was one directly in front of the house, which shows in the photograph, and there was another one between the side door and Plymouth avenue, and another between the drawing rooms and West avenue. This last circle was terraced as the ground sloped away from the house in all directions except toward the rear. The trees in the front yard were of various kinds with maples predominating. There were



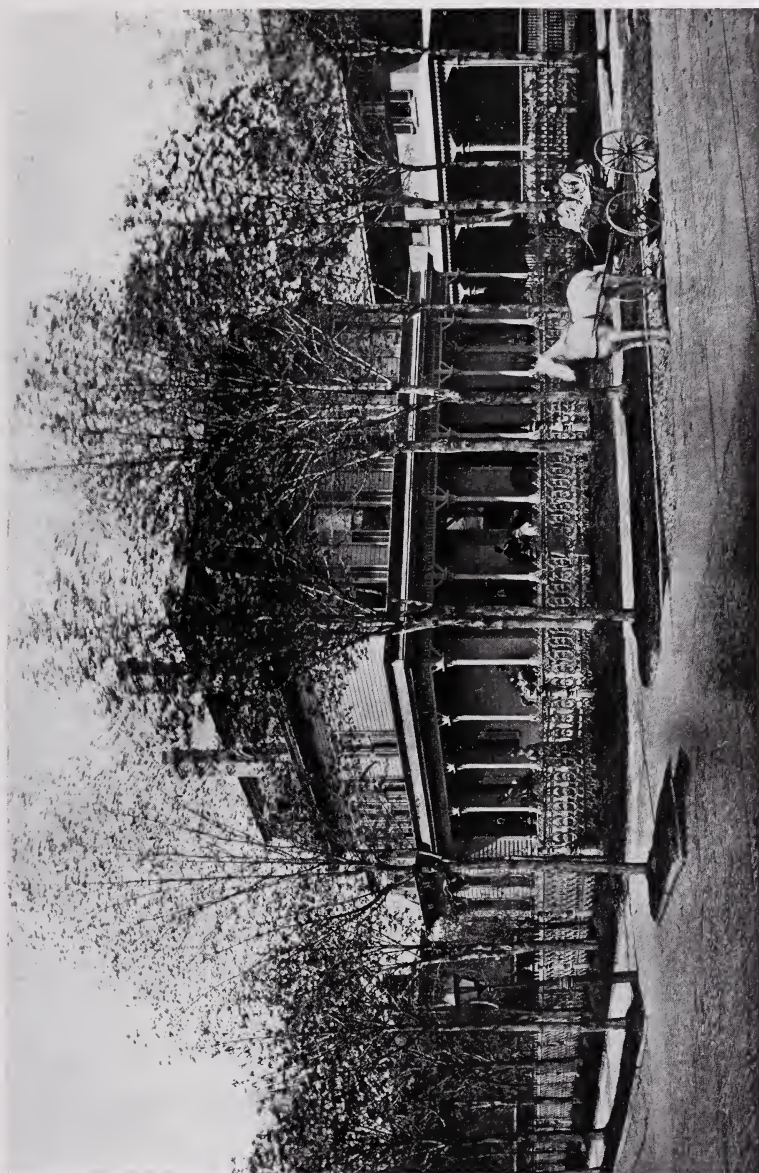
THE WILLIAM G. FARGO MANSION: SIDE APPROACH FROM THE GROUNDS.



HALL IN THE WILLIAM G. FARGO MANSION.



THE MILES JONES HOUSE, CHIPPEWA AND GEORGIA STREETS.
IN THE '90'S, HOME OF HON. CHARLES BECKWITH. PRESENT SITE OF THE LA SALLE APARTMENTS.



THE DORR HOMESTEAD, NORTHWEST CORNER NIAGARA AND CAROLINA STREETS.

ORIGINALLY A ONE-STORY COTTAGE, BUILT PRIOR TO 1852, WHEN CAPT. E. P. DORR BOUGHT IT. FOR 56 YEARS THE HOME OF THE DORR FAMILY. TAKEN DOWN 1908.



THE WILLIAM C. SHERWOOD HOUSE, NORTHEAST CORNER NIAGARA AND CAROLINA STREETS.
BUILT 1853. LATER, RESIDENCE OF JAS. CARMICHAEL, REPLACED BY CARMICHAEL BLOCK.



"THE LILACS," CHAPIN PARKWAY. RESIDENCE OF GEN. JOHN C. GRAVES.
BUILT 1883-85, TAKEN DOWN 1907, THE LARGE PROPERTY NOW MUCH DIVIDED AND BUILT UPON.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

also a great many horse-chestnuts. Originally there were four weeping willow trees in the front yard. When we moved out to the house there was only one left. It was a very large tree and does not show in the photograph. In fact this photograph does not give any adequate idea of the size of the grounds. It only shows about one-fourth of the grounds around the house. The house stood exactly in the middle of the lot. In the rear of the house lot there were a great many fruit trees. Back of the house lot was the barn lot. The barn was built of brick and stood just back of the house lot. This barn is still standing in the rear of No. 30 Plymouth avenue. The barn lot ran to within about one hundred feet of Pennsylvania street, and the family owned all of the land on West avenue, from Hudson street to Pennsylvania street, and back to the line of the barn lot.

"When I was a boy the Historical Society had a meeting at this house and Dr. Orson St. John at that meeting read the papers on the Burning of Buffalo, which were dictated to him by my grandmother, Mrs. Parnell Sidway, and by her sister, Mrs. Skinner. The papers were recently published in Volume IX. of the Publications of the Historical Society."

The early home of Reuben B. Heacock, at No. 77 Pearl street, was for many years the best example of its kind in Buffalo. With its high basement it was practically a three-story house. It was faced with granite, and in its prime stood for a good measure of luxurious comfort. Mr. Heacock was in the Legislature as early as 1826; and active in the Hydraulics promotion a little later. He died in 1853, and a street in Buffalo for many years bore his name. The title to the site of the old house was owned by R. B. Heacock and Abel Grosvenor as early as 1813, and was kept in the family until 1876, when it passed to the

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

Austin estate, which erected the present building. In its last years the old house was the headquarters of the Union Veteran Legion.

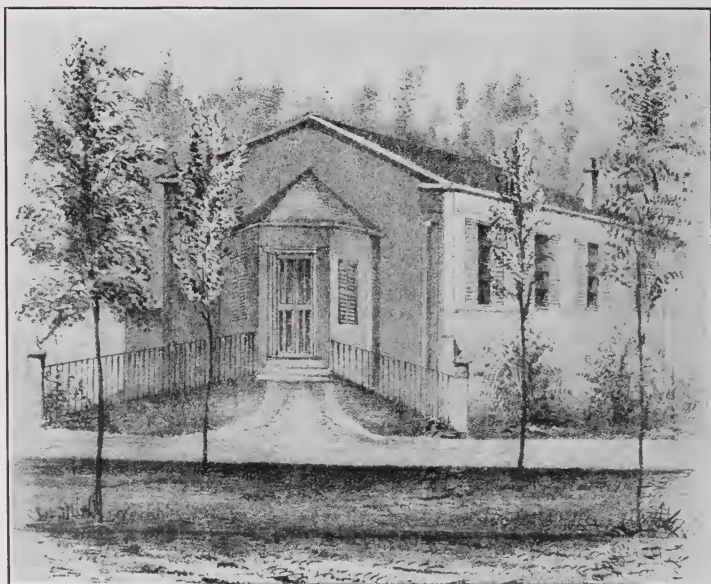
Probably the old churches appeal to the sentiment of more people than any other class of structures that have



THE REUBEN B. HEACOCK HOUSE, No. 77 PEARL STREET.
TORN DOWN 1892, FOR ERECTION OF BUILDING NOW OCCUPIED BY WM. H. WALKER & CO.



UNITED EVANGELICAL ST. PAUL'S, WASHINGTON STREET.



REFORMED PROTESTANT DUTCH CHURCH, 1855.
DELAWARE AVENUE, OPPOSITE PRESENT CARY STREET.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

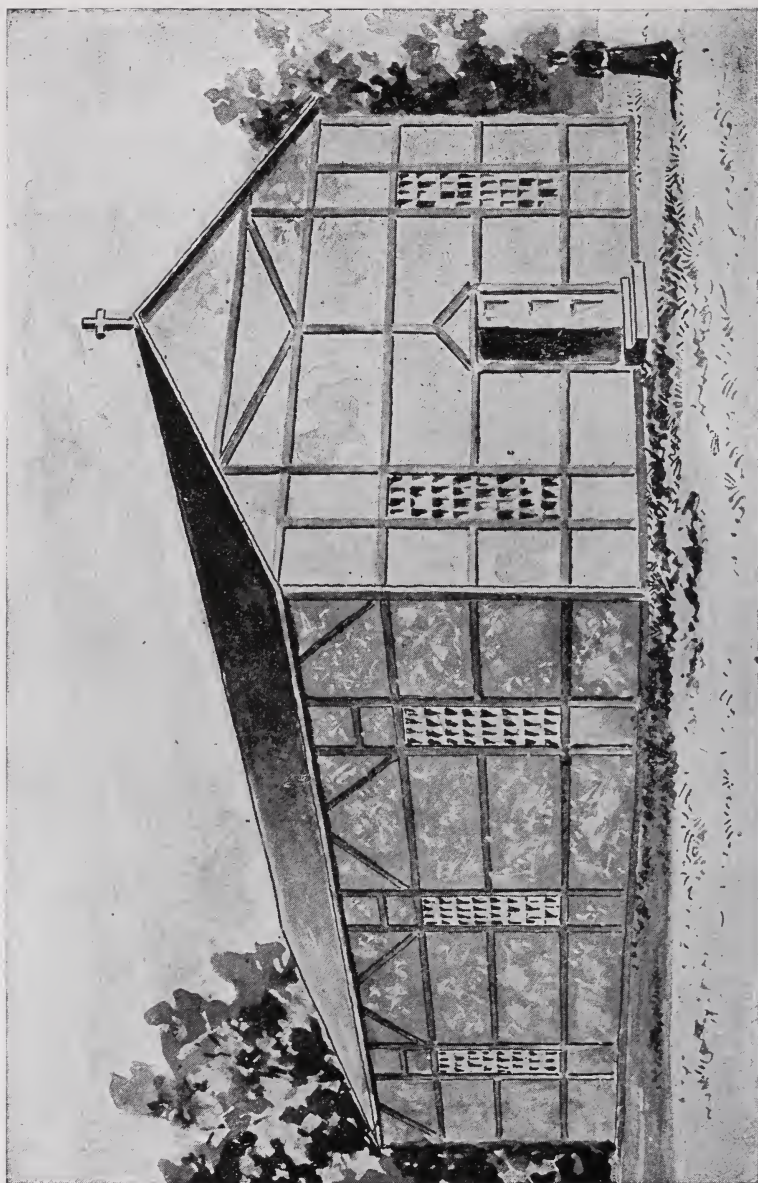
passed away. In earlier pages of this book some note has been made of the old downtown churches which have vanished. Had the details of the sketch-map (p. 104) been carried a little further, they would have shown, on the east side of Delaware above Chippewa—about opposite present Cary street—the quaint little structure of the Second Reformed Protestant Dutch church, the only known picture of which is a crude lithograph herewith reproduced. This church, or chapel, was built in 1855 and used for worship until about 1860.

The old church of the United Evangelical St. Paul's society, its site marked "23" on the map, is pictured on page 456. If the map detail were carried a little further, it would show, at Ellicott and Broadway, old St. Patrick's Roman Catholic church, the first church erected in Buffalo for



ST. PATRICK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

ELLICOTT ST. NEAR BROADWAY. FIRST CHURCH IN BUFFALO FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING CATHOLICS.



"THE LAMB OF GOD." FIRST CATHOLIC CHURCH ERECTED IN BUFFALO.
BUILT 1832-'33, ON THE SITE OF THE PRESENT ST. LOUIS CHURCH, MAIN AND EDWARD STREETS.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

English-speaking Catholics; dedicated on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1841, and abandoned for churchly use in 1855, on completion of St. Joseph's Cathedral. It then became St. Vincent's Female Orphan Asylum, the wing at the left being added. It was used for this purpose until the occupation of the present asylum at Main and Riley streets. So far as known, this is the only illustration in existence of old St. Patrick's. It is from a photograph made for the



CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION.

FORMERLY AT GRANT STREET AND LAFAYETTE AVENUE. DESTROYED BY FIRE, DECEMBER 6, 1909.

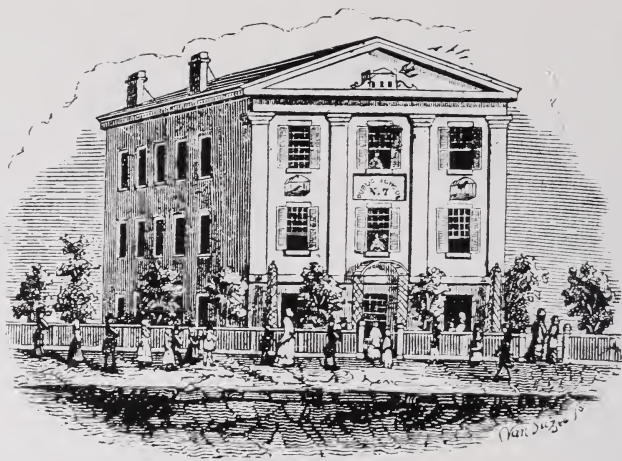


ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH, EAST STREET.

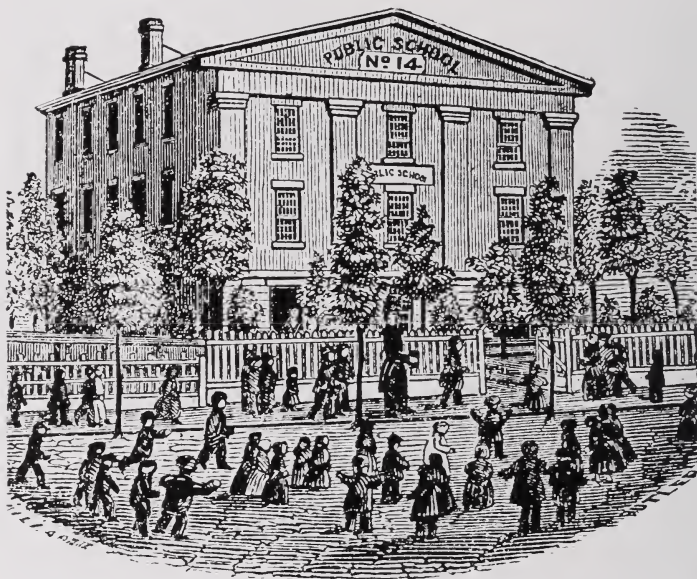
BUILT 1852. ADDITION AND STEEPLE BUILT 1877. DISMANTLED, JUNE, 1911.



CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, 690 SENECA STREET.
THE DEMOLITION OF THIS PARISH CHURCH, WITH THE ADJOINING RESIDENCE, AND
RECONSTRUCTION ELSEWHERE, ARE DUE TO FACTORY EXTENSION IN
THE NEIGHBORHOOD.



HOW SCHOOL No. SEVEN LOOKED IN 1849
STILL STANDING ON SOUTH DIVISION STREET.



SCHOOL No. FOURTEEN, FRANKLIN STREET, NEAR TUPPER.
ERECTED 1846. A WOODCUT OF 1849.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

late John MacManus, the day before the building was razed.

A book of ample proportions would be needed to show all the school houses of Buffalo—even all that have been torn down. It will never be published, because of many of the buildings there are no pictures. Most interesting of all, beyond question, would be the first one, built in 1807, where the Dun Building now stands.

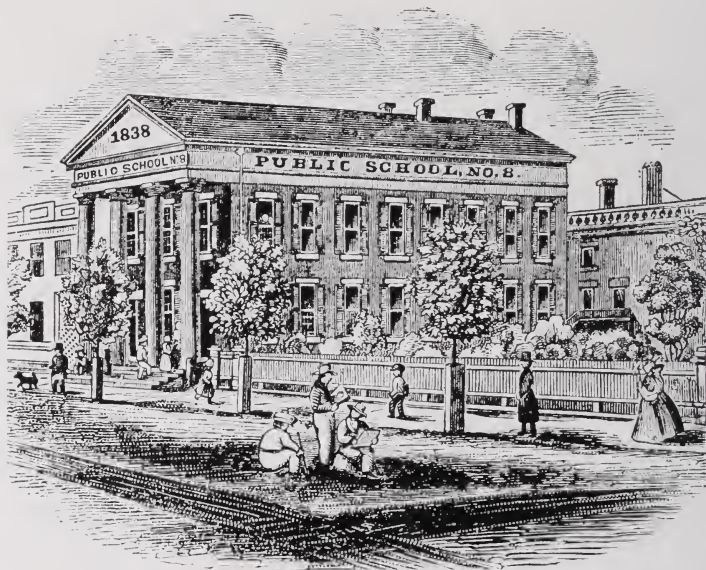
In 1849, Daniel Bowen succeeded Elias S. Hawley as Superintendent of Schools in Buffalo. In that year he illustrated his report with woodcuts of several of the school buildings. Quaint enough they are now, with their funny little puppets of children, and the wonderful ladies and gentlemen who happen to be passing, as self-conscious as



OLD PUBLIC SCHOOL No. SIX, SOUTH DIVISION STREET,
EAST OF CHESTNUT. BUILT 1839. ENLARGED 1848. A WOODCUT OF 1849.

though they knew they were to be laughed at, sixty odd years after!

In 1849 there were in Buffalo fifteen public schools, one of them for colored people. School No. Six, on South Division east of Chestnut, had just been enlarged, and for that reason Superintendent Bowen had the engraving made which is reproduced here on page 463. No. Seven, on South Division street, was then new and a school-house to be proud of. It still stands, though not used for school purposes for many a year. It is instructive to compare our picture of it in 1849, with its present estate. Of No. Eight, on Church east of Delaware, a photographic glimpse in its last days is given on page 214. Built in 1838, it was enlarged in the '40's. When the old engraving was made, Church street was still a place of trees and shrubs and



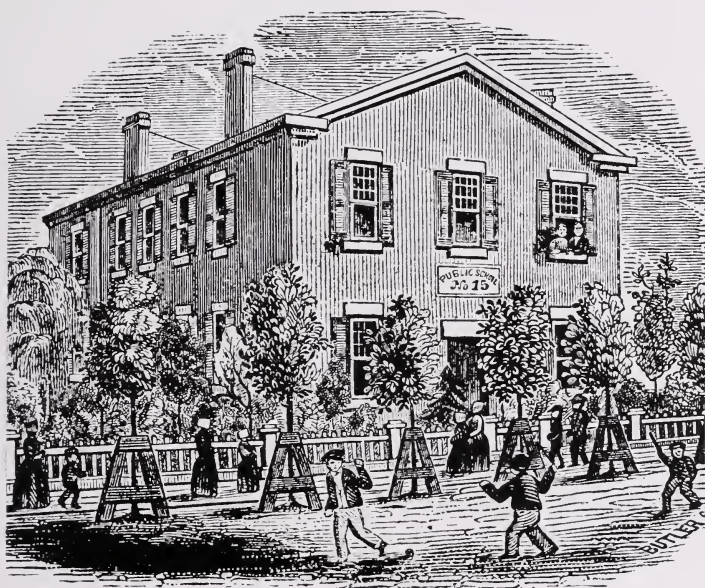
SCHOOL No. EIGHT, CHURCH STREET. 'BUILT 1838.

A WOODCUT OF 1849. (COMPARE PHOTO., PAGE 214.)

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

pleasant door-yards. School-house No. Fourteen, on Franklin north of Tupper, was built in 1846; and Fifteen, on Oak north of Goodell, was not only new, but a type of several others built about that time. It may be worth recording, that this first picturing of Buffalo school buildings, was not wholly due to the Superintendent's enterprise. "For the use of the plates giving views of school buildings, the Superintendent is indebted to the teachers of the several schools represented, at whose expense they were procured."

In 1852 Horatio Gates wrote a song in honor of Jesse Ketchum, entitled "Friendship's Offering." It was set to music by W. C. Webster, and published as sheet music by J. Sage & Sons, 209 Main street, Buffalo. The front cover is a lithograph, with a portrait of Jesse Ketchum in the



PUBLIC SCHOOL No. FIFTEEN, OAK STREET, NORTH OF GOODELL.

A WOODCUT OF 1849.



PUBLIC SCHOOL No. ONE, SEVENTH STREET NEAR HUDSON. BUILT 1855-'56.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

center, surrounded by sketches of fifteen school-houses of Buffalo. Several of them we have shown, from the earlier woodcuts. In 1856, the annual report of Supt. E. F. Cook was illustrated with lithographic sketches of the Central School (the modified Burt house shown on page 392), and of twenty grade schools. Although these pictures have a certain historic value, they are already well preserved in the report as originally published, so that their inclusion in



BIRTHPLACE OF THE BUFFALO SÆNGERBUND.

CHARLES DORN'S HOUSE, CORNER OF CHERRY AND MAPLE STREETS, IN WHICH THIS FAMOUS BUFFALO SINGING SOCIETY WAS ORGANIZED, 1853.



A VIEW OF THE GROUNDS NOW INCLUDED IN THE FRONT, AS THEY APPEARED IN 1857.
THE OCCASION WAS THE STATE AGRICULTURAL FAIR, HELD IN BUFFALO IN THAT YEAR. THE ENGRAVING IS FROM A LITHOGRAPH BY
J. SAGE & SONS, PUBLISHED BY WM. R. BRADFORD.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

the present volume is not deemed essential. Of one of them—old No. One—we give a photographic view, taken shortly before its demolition a few years ago. It was erected in 1855-56, on Seventh street, between Hudson and Maryland. Supt. Cook said of it that “for architectural beauty it will equal any building, public or private, in the city.” It was of the same plan as the old No. Thirteen, on Oak street, and perhaps others.

The picture of the State Agricultural fair, held at the Front in 1857, is full of informing data. Buffalo hotels at that time included the Courter House, near the Erie street depot; the Commercial on lower Main, and further up, the Clarendon, the then new St. James (where the Iroquois now is), the American and the old Genesee. The Mansion, just where it is now; Bonney’s on Washington street, the United States and Western on the Terrace, Huff’s near by, the Franklin on Seneca, and the Boston near the Court House, were all respectable if not otherwise good houses, in 1857.

Numerous pictures are omitted because they are well published elsewhere, and in no danger of being lost. The pictorial record of the Pan-American Exposition needs no repetition here. So too the Buffalo Exposition of 1888 may be passed over, though we have included a view of its main building. The compiler’s especial aim, in this work, has been to gather up scattered views of buildings not elsewhere worthily published; especially buildings associated with men and women, and organizations, notable in the history of Buffalo.

Much might no doubt be added, with longer quest; but further delay of publication is not advisable. Much that we would like to include is probably not procurable. Who knows how down-town Buffalo looked before the fire of



ERIE STREET, THE TERRACE AND HARBOR ENTRANCE IN THE EARLY '60's.

THE HOUSE NEXT TO THE CATHEDRAL, BACK FROM THE TREES, WAS THE RESIDENCE OF BISHOP TIMON. THE PRESENT SITE OF ST. STEPHEN'S HALL WAS THEN THE HOME OF IRA A. BLOSSOM, SURROUNDED BY TREES. A LARGE HOTEL, THE COURTER HOUSE, CORNER OF ERIE AND SENECA STREETS, SHOWS AT THE LEFT.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

November 14, 1832, which destroyed more than fifty buildings—some of the town's best—on Exchange, Seneca, Pearl, Main and Washington streets, with a property loss probably in excess of that at the famous burning of 1813. We hear much of the earlier burning, but how little of the latter!

For a full century Buffalo has had the average American city's recurrent baptism of fire; but how few of these burned buildings are pictured for us!

How different the aspect of the city has been, through the decades, is best shown when some of Buffalo's "old boys" begin to ask each other, in reminiscent mood, if they remember this or that? The early lumber-yards hold a cherished place in these boyhood memories. Some of Buffalo's most dignified citizens, today, knew the ins and outs of the lumber-piles at Pearl and Niagara and elsewhere, as well as they knew the old school-houses. In the early '60's, on that corner, they went to circuses, and to ball games at York and Sixth. We cannot compete in these pages, with memory's picture-book.

To say nothing of the countless early homes, which cannot now be pictured, or of old business places and hotels which today would appear quaint and picturesque, there have been structures in every part of the city, worth preserving in a picture, were it possible.

Some of the old river-side mills at Black Rock should be pictured, but our quest has not found them. Who remembers the old rope-walk at Black Rock? It was 660 feet long; or the glass factory of the '40's? or the public market, officially known as the Niagara market, at Court and Staats streets? or the picnics in Granger's Grove in the early '50's? or any one of the thousand places, scenes,



SOUTH SIDE OF CHURCH STREET, FRANKLIN TO PEARL, PRIOR TO 1895.

THE OLD HOUSES AT THE LEFT WERE IN THAT YEAR TORN DOWN FOR ERECTION OF THE 13-STORY PRUDENTIAL BUILDING. IN 1912 THE 16-STORY NEW YORK TELEPHONE CO. BUILDING REPLACED THE LAST OF THESE OLD HOUSES, SAID TO DATE FROM ABOUT 1825.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

institutions, dear to departed days! How little, at our best, can the *real* "earlier" Buffalo be pictured!

Is there a picture, anywhere, of the old Board of Trade building on Prime street? or of Hollister's famous "Chequered store" of the '50's? No sketches have been found showing the wonderful effects of the great gale of October, 1844. For several decades, Buffalo was busy developing a system of canals, slips and basins. They were centers of traffic, and on some of them hotels faced. Now, for some years, we have been busy in filling them up and changing the map so that little trace of them is left—and practically no pictorial record.

Many citizens still remember Fremont Hall, on the east side of Main near Virginia, where in 1856 were held meetings which resulted in the organization of the Republican party in Buffalo. Another association of Fremont Hall was with the Niagara Base Ball Club, which in 1859 had club-rooms there. This is comparatively recent, yet no picture of Fremont Hall has come to hand for our collection. As with the Prospect Hill reservoir, or the old Cold Spring tavern, and some others, our quest has not succeeded in adding them to these pages.

Of all the many old buildings which we would like to show, few would possess greater interest than the Pearl-street Presbyterian church—predecessor of the late lamented "old Central"—which stood on the west side of Pearl above Genesee. (Marked "18" on the map, p. 104.) In 1836 it was boasted of as the finest example of church architecture in Buffalo. Said the *Commercial Advertiser*, Nov. 17, 1836: "In strict adherence to architectural rules and general effect, we think it equal to almost any church in the State." And it added the following description:



SECOND FREE BAPTIST CHURCH, GRANT AND FERRY STREETS, TORN DOWN 1913.

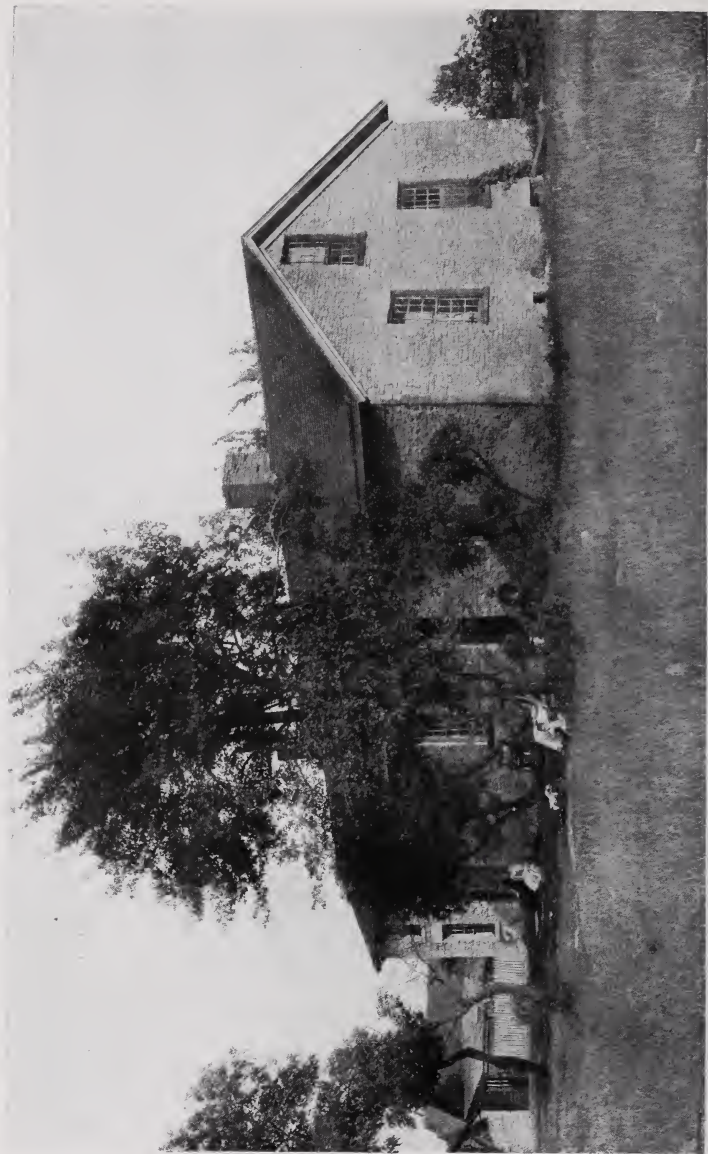
EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

"The exterior of the building is an exact copy of the Parthenon, 50 feet front and 90 in length. The interior is a perfect ellipse, ornamented by 12 antæ-pilasters supporting a continuous entablature from which the base of the dome is projected. The dome is relieved by 4 elliptical niches rising about 5 feet—proportionate to the square of the ellipse—from the crown of which rises a second arch of nearly 5 feet relieved by heavy panel work and richly orna-



BUILDINGS AT Nos. 181, 183 AND 185 FRANKLIN STREET.

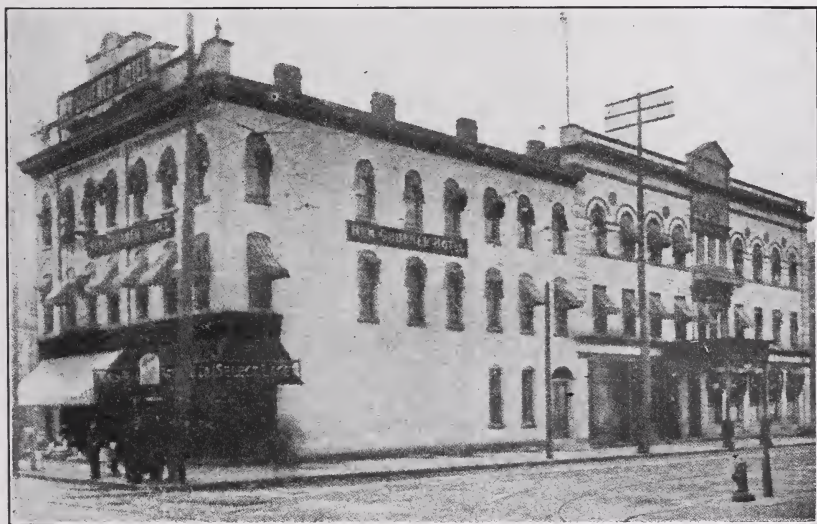
BOUGHT BY THE CHARITY ORGANIZATION SOCIETY, AND REBUILT, WITH NEW FRONT, AS
THE SOCIAL SERVICE BUILDING, 1913.



A TYPE OF BUFFALO EAST SIDE RESIDENCE HALF A CENTURY AGO.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

mented which finishes to the base of the dome. The dome itself is of richly stained glass, 33 feet by 21, rising about 5 feet in an elliptical form with a heavy pendant center piece 5 feet by 9, from which is suspended a superb lamp intended to light the whole house. The lamp weighs 800 pounds; the broad hood of rich mellow light streaming through the stained glass of the dome has a very fine effect. The seats which are made sofa-like, 100 in number, are all finished with pale blue damask. The plan of the interior, devised by Mr. Lord, the pastor, with reference to sound and in accordance with the laws of acoustics, proves eminently successful. A person speaking in a moderate tone of voice, can be heard with ease in every part. It was built under the personal superintendence of the architect, Mr. J. H. Merrill, is of cut stone front, fireproof, and cost, including the lot, about \$33,000."



GRUENER'S HOTEL AS LAST REBUILT.

TORN DOWN FOR ERECTION OF BUILDING OF THE BUFFALO GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, 1911.



THE SENECA MISSION CHURCH, 1828-1846.
INDIAN CHURCH AVENUE NOW CROSSES ITS SITE.



RED JACKET'S LOG CABIN AND HOUSE OF JONES, INTERPRETER.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

The little picture of the Seneca Mission church on the Buffalo Reservation, and of the houses of Red Jacket and William Jones, originally appeared in Barber and Howe's "Historical Collections of the State of New York," published in 1841. So far as known, they are the only pictures ever made of these buildings. They were republished in Stone's "Life of Red Jacket" and have been reproduced now and then in local prints.

The Seneca Mission church was built by the Indians themselves, and dedicated August 19, 1829. It was 41 by 51 feet, one story high, with a vestibule and belfry. The interior had an arched ceiling, and seating capacity for 400 persons. It cost about \$1700, all but \$270 being raised by the Indians, though some of them gave lumber and labor in lieu of money. The best account of this church is given in Henry R. Howland's paper, "The Seneca Mission at Buffalo Creek," in volume six, Publications of the Buffalo Historical Society. The church was painted white and had a bell, the fate of which is not known. Its weather-vane, a gilded arrow, is now in the museum of the Buffalo Historical Society. The church fell into ruin after the removal of the Senecas to the Cattaraugus, 1843-4, and was finally blown down. The site is now covered by Indian Church Road.

About 80 rods from the Mission church stood the house of William Jones, interpreter, and the log cabin of Red Jacket. The exact location of these buildings is not known to the writer. In this log cabin Red Jacket died, Jan. 20, 1832. He had lived there for some years, and it probably antedated the War of 1812.

The Seneca Mission House, still standing on Buffam street, was built in 1833. Its story has been adequately told in the paper by Mr. Howland above referred to. Here



THE SENECA MISSION HOUSE, BUFFAM STREET, SOUTH BUFFALO.
BUILT 1833. STILL STANDING.



THE OLD SENECA INDIAN CEMETERY, BEFORE THE GRAVESTONES WERE REMOVED.

NOW KNOWN AS SENECA PARK, THE GIFT TO THE CITY OF MR. AND MRS. JOHN D. LARKIN.



OLD TOLL GATE ON THE HAMBURG TURNPIKE.
DISCONTINUED IN THE LATE '80'S.



OLD STORES AND HOUSES, JUNCTION OF ELK STREET AND ABBOTT ROAD.

ALL CLEARED AWAY WHEN THE OVERHEAD VIADUCTS WERE BUILT AT THAT POINT, DECADE OF 1890. THE WORK OF GRADE CROSSING IMPROVEMENT IN BUFFALO SINCE 1895 HAS REMOVED SCORES OF BUILDINGS, BUT FEW IF ANY OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE.

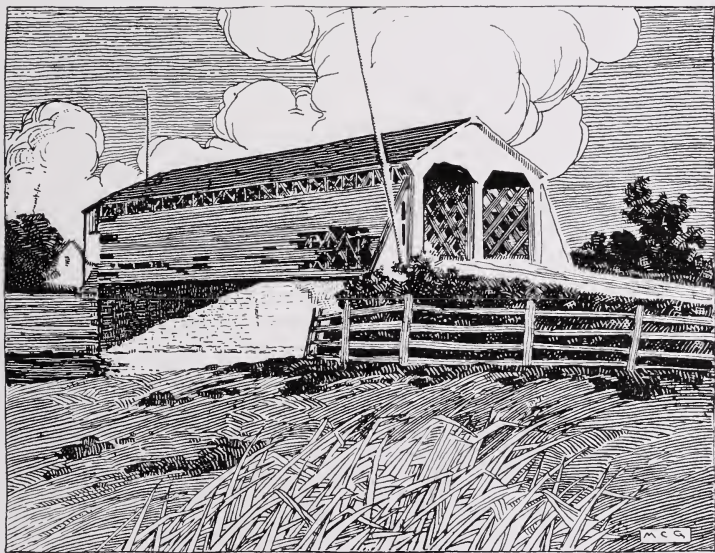


OLD RIDER TRUSS WOODEN BRIDGE OVER BUFFALO RIVER AT ABBOTT ROAD.
REPLACED YEARS AGO BY A MODERN STRUCTURE.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

labored those devoted missionaries Mr. and Mrs. Asher Wright, and here was set up the first press for printing in the Seneca language. No building in Buffalo has associations of greater historical significance.

Numerous pictures are purposely omitted. One of these is a "View of the village of Black Rock, from the Canada shore in 1825," drawn by T. H. Wentworth, found in a work entitled "A Geological and Agricultural Survey of the District adjoining the Erie Canal," published at Albany in 1824 — a year before the date of the picture! The view itself is a part of a composite folding plate that usually accompanies the work as a frontispiece. It is not reproduced for our collection, as it shows little but an expanse of



OLD SENECA STREET BRIDGE OVER BUFFALO RIVER.

REPLACED BY A NEW STRUCTURE, 1889.



THE BANTA HOMESTEAD, CORNER OF PERRY AND HAYWARD STREETS.

SAID TO HAVE BEEN BUILT IN 1820. FROM 1844 TO DATE, RESIDENCE OF JACOB W. BANTA AND DESCENDANTS. PROBABLY THE OLDEST HOUSE IN THAT SECTION, AND ONE OF THE OLDEST IN BUFFALO.

sky and water, the few buildings indicated being too small and nondescript to be of value in this connection.

In 1895 Mr. John R. Chapin drew, for the *Express*, a large bird's-eye view of the business part of Buffalo. It is a useful record of the aspect of the city at that time, but as its most distinctive buildings are still standing, it does not properly fall within the scope of the present collection.

The evolution of the town presents many curious features, but nothing is more striking than the impermanence of improvements. What one decade achieves, the next destroys. The pride of today is the scorn of tomorrow. By 1837 most of the business buildings were of brick, and some of them of very good architecture. It is not always the poor and shabby that are replaced. Improvements depend upon eligibility of site, or enterprise of owners, or the accident of fire. Thus it happens that much of our best disappears for things newer but perhaps no better, and much of our worst, to our civic shame, remains.

There was a time when popular taste (or was it the roving tendency of pigs and cows?) called for fences, not only around private grounds, but around the parks. In the good old days people had door-yards. The "lawn" came in about the time the fence went out. Court House Park, now Lafayette Square, was fenced for many years. In 1844, it appears, the public was kept out entirely. The *Gazette*, a Buffalo paper, on September 12th of that year, said: "By the politeness of Col. Riley we are enabled to enjoy the excellent music of the U. S. Band, two evenings in a week. But why should the gates of the Park be kept closed and all admittance denied?" And it added an appeal to the Mayor, to let the people in when the band played. The Park of 1844 had earlier been an open common. In 1848 it was the scene of the National Free Soil Convention,

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

the first and only National political convention ever held in Buffalo. The story of that convention, most graphically told, is to be found in volume Four, Publications of the Buffalo Historical Society. After the old Court House was torn down, in 1876, Court House Park became Lafayette Square. The erection there, in 1882, of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, might have been expected to give the place some character of fixity; but no. Not only has the monument itself been taken down and rebuilt, but the surrounding grounds have changed in aspect from year to year; and now, with the projected Broadway extension and other changes impending, the end is not yet. *Tempora*



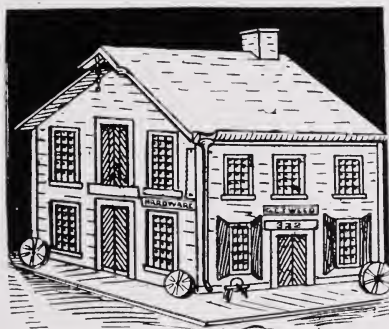
EAGLE-STREET THEATER, AS PICTURED IN 1835.

COMPARE WITH THE DAGUERRETYPE VIEW ON PAGE 232.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

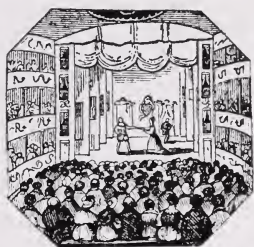
mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis.

We are a long ways from the sunny time when red men and white were wont to meet there beside a bubbling spring, to trade and cheat each other



THE WEED BLOCK OF 1818.

any rate they cannot be shown not to be. The original Weed building, at Main and Swan streets, dated from 1818. The little sketch of it which we give is of unknown origin, but was first printed many years ago. The small view, purporting to show the interior of the Eagle-street theater, was first published in 1835. On October 17th of that year the *New York Mirror* published the woodcut of the front of that theater which we give on page 488. This shows it as the archi-



INTERIOR, OLD EAGLE-STREET THEATER.

in the friendliest of fashions.

Of some of our old-time buildings certain early engravings exist which may be taken to be fairly accurate: at



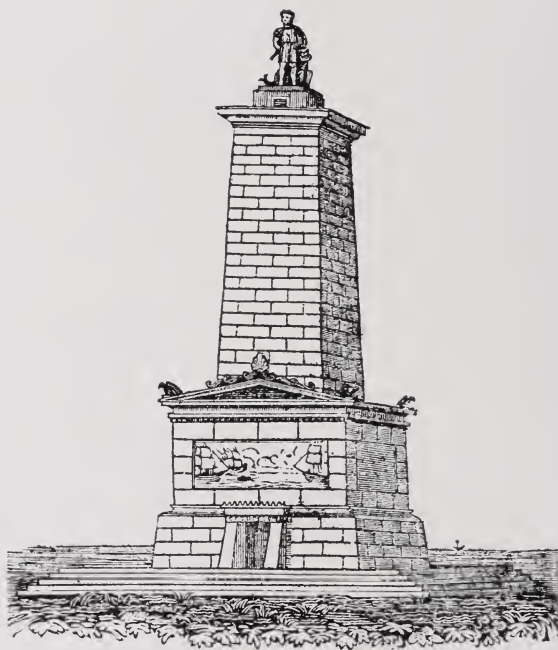
OFFICE OF WHEELER HOTCHKISS. FROM AN ADVERTISEMENT OF 1854. SITE OF THE MORGAN BUILDING, PEARL AND NIAGARA STREETS.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

tect drew it. The daguerreotype reproduced on page 232 shows it as it really was.

A woodcut of 1848 shows, more or less accurately, a singular structure erected in that year at Pearl and Niagara streets (present site of the Morgan building), to serve as office for the lumber yard of Wheeler Hotchkiss.

Among the many enterprises started in the exuberant '30's was a monument to Oliver Hazard Perry, hero of the Battle of Lake Erie. In 1836 an organization of Buffalo citizens was effected, for its erection. There were committees on correspondence, on finance, on subscriptions. Stephen Champlin, veteran of the famous fight, was the

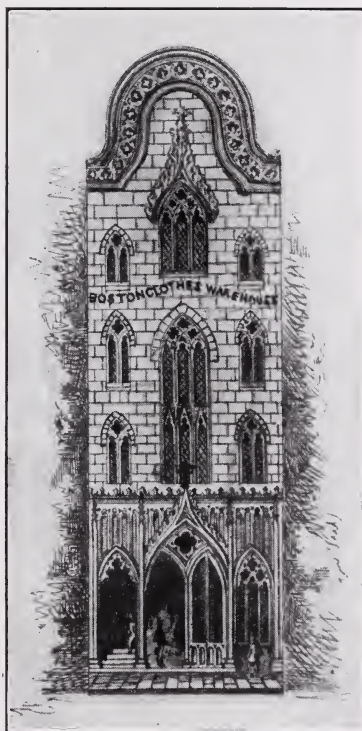


PROPOSED MONUMENT TO OLIVER HAZARD PERRY.

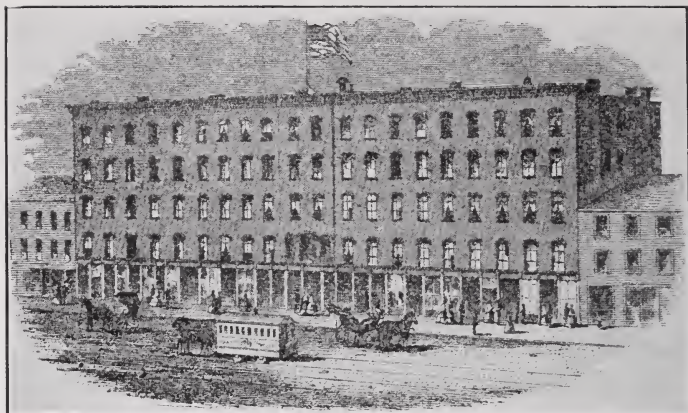
IN 1836, CITIZENS OF BUFFALO PLANNED TO BUILD IT, 100 FEET HIGH, TO COST \$75,000. IT WAS NEVER BUILT. (A WOODCUT OF 1836.)

happy choice for treasurer. In May, "two splendid designs" had been secured from Frazee & Lawnitz, sculptors and architects, 591 Broadway, New York City. Plans were placed on view at the Council chamber. The monument was to stand at present Shelton Square; was to be one hundred feet high, of marble from East Chester, N. Y., and was to cost \$75,000. Obviously, some difficulty was encountered—Buffalo's monument to Commodore Perry is not yet begun.

The Perry memorial and Rathbun's Exchange are associated in the annals of things that did not come to pass. Of



GOTHIC HALL IN 1851.



THE SECOND AMERICAN HOTEL, BURNED 1865.

FROM A LITHOGRAPH OF 1862.

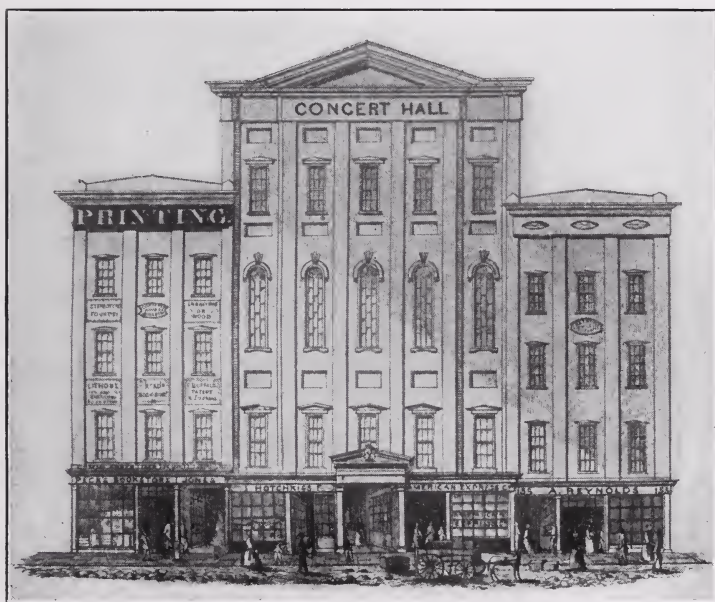


THE ST. JAMES HOTEL AS PICTURED IN 1855.

COMPARE WITH VIEW, PAGE 158, WHICH SHOWS IT AFTER ALTERATIONS, WITH THE HADDOCK CLOCK AT THE CORNER.



THE EXCHANGE HOTEL AS PICTURED IN 1850.
LATER KNOWN AS THE RAILROAD HOTEL, 99 EXCHANGE STREET.



THE NIAGARA BLOCK, MAIN STREET, AS PICTURED IN 1850.
OLD NUMBERS 155-161. COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER OFFICE AT THE LEFT.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

this stately Exchange, a sketch of which is given on page 78, the *Commercial Advertiser* of July 30, 1836, said: "The whole is to be built of cut stone, and will be finished in about two years. The location is unrivalled; nearly in the center of Main street, the beautiful monument to Perry in front, and commanding the finest view our city affords, of Lake Erie and the glorious Niagara."

It was a fair dream. What a different Buffalo would be ours if more of the dreams had come true! Joseph Ellicott never heard of a "civic center," but he dreamed of Niagara Square as the center of the future Buffalo; but State ownership of the Mile Strip, and other things, sent development elsewhere. He dreamed of a great park for the future great Buffalo, east from Main between Swan and Eagle.



GERMAN EVANG. REF. ZION'S CHURCH, CHERRY AND SPRING STS.

BUILT 1846. SITE NOW COVERED BY THE CRYSTAL ICE COMPANY'S BUILDING. A NEW CHURCH BUILT, 1855, ON LEMON STREET; ENLARGED, 1885.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

Some people now dream of an improved "down town" if one block, between Ellicott Square and the Post Office, were cleared and made Ellicott Park.

A revision of the foregoing pages discovers a few statements which need correction, or an additional explanation.



FIRST BUILDING OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH (EV. LUTH.), HICKORY ST.

FIRST GERMAN PROTESTANT SOCIETY IN BUFFALO. CORNER-STONE LAID 1835,
COMPLETED 1843. REPLACED BY NEW CHURCH, 1875.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

Page 12. Charles P. Dwyer's fanciful sketch of Mid-daugh's house on the peninsula was published, with Part One of his projected history of Buffalo, in February, 1852. The work was to include nine parts, but nothing after Part One is known to the present compiler. Mr. Dwyer was an



SOUTHEAST CORNER MAIN AND MOHAWK STREETS.

IN 1870-'72, OFFICE OF THE BUFFALO FREIE PRESSE. PRESENT SITE OF THE NELLANY BLOCK.



OLD HOMES ON SOUTHWEST CORNER PEARL AND TUPPER STREETS.

TO BE REPLACED BY A NEW STRUCTURE, 1913. THE CORNER HOUSE WAS FOR MANY YEARS THE RESIDENCE OF NATHANIEL HALL.



SPRING AND SUMMER AT THE ENSIGN PLACE.

FORMER RESIDENCE OF CLARK HECOX AND OF JAMES HOLLISTER, LATER, AND FOR MANY YEARS, HOME OF MR. CHARLES ENSIGN AND FAMILY, NO. 744 MAIN ST.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

architect and appears to have been needy, for a public benefit in his behalf was advertised in the press of 1852.

Page 65. "Where the Townsend block now stands," must read (due to changes since that page was penned): "Where the Townsend block stood."

Page 66. Judge Walden's house, built in 1811, was burned in 1813. The house shown in the picture on page 167 was built soon after the War of 1812.

Page 67. The Arcole Foundry in 1844 had its office at



HOUSE AT No. 262 DELAWARE AVENUE. BUILT ABOUT 1850.

ORIGINALLY A DOUBLE HOUSE. HON. JOHN GANSON DWELT MANY YEARS IN THE SOUTH SIDE, JOHN C. SIBLEY IN THE NORTH OR RIGHT-HAND SIDE. ABOUT 1866 THE TWO SUITES WERE MADE ONE RESIDENCE. NOW, MUCH ENLARGED AND REMODELED, KNOWN AS THE LIVINGSTON APARTMENTS. AT THE RIGHT, A GLIMPSE IS HAD OF THE FORMER HOME OF HENRY S. LANSING, NOW THE SITE OF THE TOURAINE HOTEL.



RESIDENCE BUILT 1855, NOW NO. 730 WEST FERRY STREET.

FORMER HOME OF CHARLES WADSWORTH, JAMES ADAMS (WHO BUILT THE TOWER), JESSE C. DANN AND JOHN J. ALBRIGHT. BURNED 1901, AND REPLACED BY MR. JOHN J. ALBRIGHT'S PRESENT RESIDENCE.



HOUSE BUILT BY WARREN GRANGER. FROM A WATER-COLOR SKETCH BY JACOB WELLS.

THE PICTURE SHOWS IT AS IT APPEARED SOME HALF CENTURY AGO, DURING THE OCCUPANCY OF SAMUEL A. PROVOOST, A LATER OWNER, MR. F. H. RANSOM, ADDED A TOWER. AT THE LEFT, A HORSE-CAR APPROACH WAS HAD TO MOFFAT'S (FORMERLY GRANGER'S) GROVE, NOW INCLUDED IN FOREST LAWN CEMETERY.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

64 Main street; but the foundry shown in the woodcut was near the foot of Court street.

Page 79. The Bank of Buffalo was erected in 1836. The date given is that of Orr's engraving.

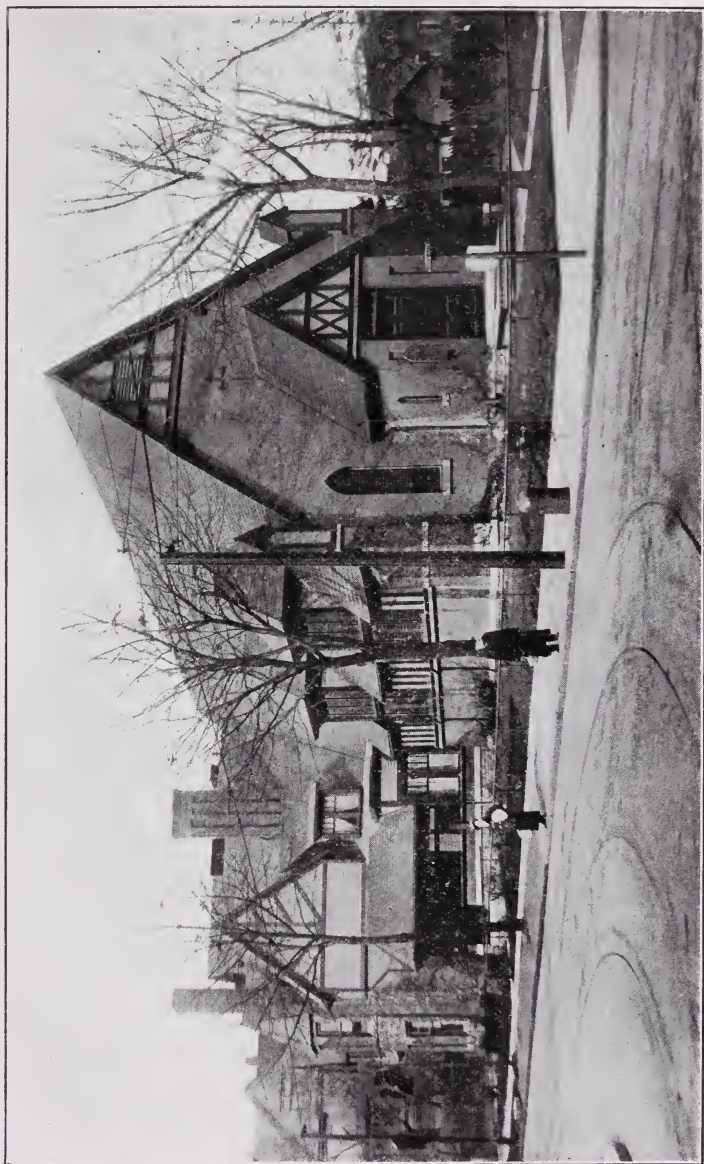
Page 126. The old Niagara-street Methodist Episcopal church was originally dedicated on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 18, 1858. It was bought by the Jewish Society of Temple Beth Zion, from William G. Fargo, for \$13,000. Seven thousand dollars were spent in alterations, and the Temple was dedicated May 25, 1865. It was torn down in 1890 for the erection of the Masonic building, now on that site. The corner-stone of this building was laid July 26, 1890, and it was dedicated January 20, 1892.

Page 127. The original church on this site was not built by a Lutheran, but by a Protestant Dutch Reform^{ed} society. The corner-stone was laid April 25, 1842.



THE FIRST ST. MARY'S-ON-THE-HILL.

AT NIAGARA AND VERMONT STREETS. BUILT 1874; FIRST USED FOR WORSHIP, EASTER, 1875. REPEATEDLY ENLARGED, AND IN 1893 REBUILT OF STONE.



ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NORTHWEST CORNER MAIN AND UTICA STREETS.

ERECTED 1879-'80. SOLD, TO BE REPLACED BY A BUSINESS BLOCK, SPRING OF 1913.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.

Page 168. The pillared front of Stevenson's livery stable was taken down in the summer of 1867. The *Commercial Advertiser*, July 17th, commenting on the alteration then being made, said: "Instead of the old building, which had something noble in its appearance, and was at least complete and harmonious in design, the proprietor has substituted a shabby two-story front, making a pair of low stores, and a second story with a front wall carried up high enough to hide the gable of the old roof, so the whole effect reminds one of a very short, broad man, with an extremely tall hat on. . . . It makes one wish to see the massive old pillars set back again."

Page 336. This house should have been styled the residence of Morris Hazard, father of Edward Hazard, whose name is given under the cut.

Page 344. The mottled appearance of the sky (it may be stated for the critical) is not a visitation of Nature, but is due to the fact that the interesting old drawing, in its seventy-six years of precarious existence, has become yellow and spotted. Some old resident may find this one of the most valuable pictures in our book.

Page 347. Third line from bottom, "below Seneca" should read "below Swan" or "above Seneca." The site in question is clearly indicated.

Page 380. The M. A. Campbell house is elsewhere called the Jas. L. Barton house. Both designations are correct, the house having as occupants at different times, both the Campbell and Barton families.

Page 427. This house should have been spoken of as the one-time residence of Albert P. Laning, instead of Asher P. Nichols.



VIEWS FROM THE OLD DRIVING PARK, 1873.

TAKEN AT THE TROTting MEETING, AUGUST 9TH. THE UPPER PICTURE SHOWS THE
 "GO" BETWEEN GOLDSMITH MAID, JIM IRVING AND AMERICAN GIRL, WON BY
 THE MAID IN THREE STRAIGHT HEATS. LOWER PICTURE SHOWS THE
 GRAND STAND AND FIRST QUARTER.

EARLIER BUFFALO PICTURE BOOK.


The signature to the cut on page 7, which appears to be "Peace," is really "Pease."

The reader—if he has persevered to this point—has remarked that we have made but a rambling and devious tour about Buffalo. We began it at the water front, and at the water front again we may as well end it. Buffalo was born of the lake and its commerce, and no matter how greatly other interests engage her, she still remains, in manifold ways, the offspring of the Inland Seas.



THE FOOT OF MAIN STREET FROM THE LYON ELEVATOR, 1888.

THE COVERED WAY ABOVE THE WHARF AT THE FOOT OF THE STREET WAS TAKEN DOWN SOON AFTER THE PICTURE WAS MADE. THE BUILDINGS AT THE RIGHT, ON THE RIVER, WERE TORN DOWN IN 1912.



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Date Due

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Brigham Young University

